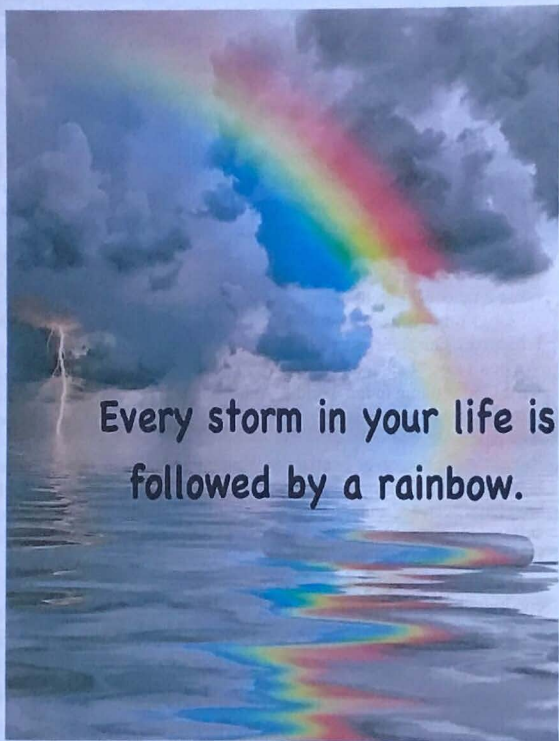


West Barre Witness
March 2020



**Every storm in your life is
followed by a rainbow.**

Strung Out Theory:

String theorist Brian Greene is a well celebrated scientist. His World Science festival, New York edition, in its first four years has, (according to Time Magazine), drawn 2 million people. 40 million have viewed his content on line. He is a brilliant scientist.

What captured my attention was his conclusions about the universe and how it operates, and consequently its purpose. His conclusion is that it has no purpose. As far as an individual is concerned, he has stated, maybe out of context here, that “You have no ability to intercede in that quantum-mechanical unfolding. None whatsoever.”

In my unscientific redaction, I think he is saying essentially, “what will be, will be.” Further, there is little we can do about it.

As a pastor, I do take exception to this concept. I understand a little bit of how you and I are so programmed by our ancestors, by when we were born, by our DNA, and a host of other influences. It is only our faith in the goodness of the God of the universe that sets us free.

We live in a time where it seems many people have given up hope, where complacency seems to prevail. Where just “going along with it, don’t cause a raucous” can be seen as the way to live in this world.

I disagree. Our faith causes us to have hope, and to be active in that hope. We don’t say, “Let God take care of it”, we say “we want to be part of what God is doing in the world.” And what God is doing in the world is the life changing, community changing, world changing effect of God’s hope and love.

We are in the season of Lent, journeying towards Easter. If this journey is real, it takes us beyond complacency, to risking our own lives for those who have been set aside, for the poor, for the wounded, for those who suffer prejudice and injustice. We risk to make God’s transforming love real in our everyday lives.

If Jesus taught us anything on that Easter morning, it is that God continues to develop yours and my life, and does the same for the world, for all eternity.

Brian Greene is a brilliant scientist, but by the grace of God, you and I are more than our programming, more than our quantum-mechanical marching orders.



Thanks be to God.

Rev. Brad

"Matthew in March"

The West Barre congregation has begun reading the Gospel of Matthew during this season of Lent.

The challenge is to read four chapters of Matthew each week, and then place an "x" on the chart for the week. Here is the schedule:

March 1: Chapters 1-4

March 8: Chapters 5-8

March 15: Chapters 9-12

March 22: Chapters 13-16

March 29: Chapters 17-20

April 5: Chapters 21-24

Easter: Chapters 25-28

As some may recall, last year the congregation read Luke during Lent. It was inspiring to see all the "x's" appear each week. The hope is that this year will be even more inspiring!

If you are not able to come to worship, you can let the pastor or someone else know so they might place your "x" on the chart.



Worship and Small Groups

Each week in Lent, the scripture for our worship will be drawn from the week's readings. In addition, if you can gather 5 or more people together to study the scripture, Rev. Brad will negotiate a time to meet to discuss the four chapters of the week. Please contact Rev. Brad to schedule your small group.

Lenten Luncheon!



Each week in the season of Lent, West Barre United Methodist Church joins with many other congregations for a time of fellowship and worship.

On March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, beginnings at noon, there will be a lunch of soup, sandwich and dessert served at the Episcopal Church in Albion. Following the lunch, there will be a time of worship.

Each congregation takes a turn at providing the lunch, and the worship. West Barre UMC will begin the series on March 4.

Donations are accepted.

Plan to come and join in one week or all the weeks as a way of preparing for the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus on April 12.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 Ad Council 7 pm
- 4 Lenten Lunch @ Noon
SPPRC meeting 6 pm
- 11 Lenten Lunch @ Noon
- 16 Mission Committee 5:30 pm
- 17 Communication meeting @ Noon
- 18 Lenten Lunch @ Noon
- 21 Education Committee 9:30 am
- 23 Trustee meeting 6 pm
- 24 Memorial Committee 6 pm
- 25 Lenten Lunch @ Noon
- 27 Family Night Supper 6:30 pm
- 31 Hospitality Committee 6 pm



Lent:

Lent is a liturgical season leading up to Easter. It was originally designed for Confirmands, for those who would confirm their baptism and join the church.

It is my guess that it eventually became a tradition of the church that involved whole congregations. It became a time of penitence, a time of self-sacrifice, keeping the self-sacrifice of Jesus in mind.

Lent is 40 days long, not counting the six Sundays in Lent. The 40 is commemorative of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness that followed his baptism.

Sundays are not counted as the forty days because each Sunday is considered a "little Easter". This is why many Christians worship on Sunday, rather than on Saturday, the day of worship for the Jewish tradition.

The challenge for each of us in this season is a time for self-sacrifice. Some Christian traditions encourage giving something up for Lent. I favor the tradition of adding something to our lives for Lent.

This may be an extra gift to God, it may be a deeper time of devotion each day, or it may be to offer your time for a mission or ministry each week. It may be something as simple as attending Lenten luncheons, reading the Book of Matthew, or hosting a small group for Bible Study. All of it will add to your life, and to God's presence in the world.

The tradition of Lent for children was to give up candy for Lent. Thus, the tradition of Easter Baskets of candy given on Easter morning. Easter would end the 46 days of having no candy.

In our Children's Sermon time, you may notice that there will be no M&M's or any candy used for the season of Lent. However, Easter morning candy will probably be used.

Please take time to make this season of Lent important to you.



Rev. Brad

Mission for March

Our mission for March is UMCOR which stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The collection in March will go toward the administration costs of running this huge organization. This is the only time that they ask for money to run the committee. We gather donations the whole month, but most churches only give one Sunday in March.

Just a little on what UMCOR is about:

Disaster Response - Supports United Methodist churches to provide direct ministry to those impacted by disasters. UMCOR provides training, supplies and funding to conferences responding to disasters. I have heard it said that the United Methodists are the first there and last to leave and are well-run besides!

Global Development - They work to alleviate suffering by addressing the root causes of hunger, poverty and poor health around the world through awareness, advocacy and action. They specialize solutions that help people become self-reliant.

Relief Supplies - UMCOR collects school kits, cleaning buckets and hygiene kits for distribution after disasters. We help with this the month we make "flood buckets".

There are many things that we don't see or hear about that United Methodists are involved in around the world.

I just Praise the Lord for our small input to the missions we provide here on our streets and around the world, for I know that the little we give, the Lord makes Large! Praise God! My thanks to all who support our missions that are set in front of you.

Another Mission Moment

"Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

This is one of the verses Tina Nguyen put in her February newsletter for One Hope for Asia. Tina is asking that we pray for her for she is fasting for 40 days for a personal revival. Please keep her in your prayers daily for guidance and strength.

Tina and One Hope for Asia was our mission for Feb. and we will be sending them a check for \$1,950. Praise the Lord! Tina and her disciples will put the money to good use and stretch it as far as it will go.

My hope is Tina will come back to the United States for a visit and we can get her to come and speak to us again. What a blessing to us that would be.

Again, please pray for strength and wisdom for Tina as she goes through her personal fast.



Joy Markle

I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

**Lent is a season of reflection and
preparation of our heart before our
celebration of Jesus' resurrection on
Easter Sunday.**

From the writings of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace!

Where there is hatred...*let me sow love.*

Where there is injury...*pardon.*

Where there is doubt...*faith.*

Where there is despair...*hope.*

Where there is darkness...*light.*

Where there is sadness...*joy.*

O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek

To be consoled...*as to console,*

To be understood...*as to understand,*

To be loved...*as to love;*

For it is in giving...*that we receive;*

It is in pardoning...*that we are pardoned;*

It is in dying...*that we are born to*

Eternal Life.



Medicine for Malek!

A Mission Moment

Paul Riak is the administrator for the Southern Sudan Health Project in South Sudan. Our 8 Home Health Promoters need medicines to dispense to the people in their communities. Some of the medicines that Paul has requested are listed below.

Mawut Garung is from Malek, South Sudan, and is living and working in Syracuse. He will be traveling back to his home town in late March. He is willing to take a suitcase full of medicine. We hope to fill the suitcase to at least half full for him to take!

The medicines:

- ~ Any anti-diarrhea medicine
- ~ Tylenol
- ~ Tylenol for children
- ~ Multi-vitamins for children
- ~ Iron supplements
- ~ Ibuprofen

These items do not have to be name brand items, but they do need to be unopened. March 22 will be the last Sunday to collect.

*If you light a lamp for someone else,
it will also brighten your path.*

GRADUATES: Please let me know of any graduates, high school or college. We would like to honor them on Sunday, June 21. I will need names by JUNE 1st.

Thank You, Alice Mathes

Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

Travis Joseph Markle

Jonathan & Melanie

Rev. Vonda

CONCERNS

The Family of Ronnie French

Judy Durrant

Fonda Carr

Bill Dunn

Jerry Johnson

Bill & Mary Shuler

Cheryl Maxon's ex-husband

Pastor Jack Richardson

Doreen Brumbaugh



BOTH PRAISE/JOY & CONCERN

Chris & Jess Markle

Larry Kennedy

SAVE THE DATE

VBS AUGUST 10-13 from 5:30-8:30 pm

Our theme is "Concrete and Cranes". Kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus. We are looking for volunteers to be teachers, assistants, for music, crafts, etc. If you have helped in a certain area and would like to do that again, let me know. This program won't be possible if we don't have willing and active participants. Prayerfully consider helping in any way possible.

Happy March Birthday & Anniversary*

- 2 Marcia Hunt
7 Shellie Mull
8 Vicky Houseknecht
9 Doris Antinore
18 Bill Caldwell
22 Ed & Vicky Houseknecht*
24 Steve Hickman
Matthew Mathes
Lois Nesbitt
26 Pastor Brad Hunt
Bernice Embt
29 Melanie Hickman
Homer Mathes



Greeters/Ushers

- 3/1 Vicky Houseknecht
3/8 Dan Shuler & Dora Leader
3/15 Lanor Markle
3/22 Alice Mathes
3/29 Vicky Houseknecht

Scripture Reader

- 3/1 Hugh Dudley
3/8 Ruth Miller
3/15 Vicky Houseknecht
3/22 Lanor Markle
3/29 Karen Markle

Altar Flowers

- Vicky
Ruth Miller
Lanor Markle
Alice Mathes
Kelly Dudley

Children's Church

- Alice Mathes
Louise Henderson
Dan & Vicky
Alice Mathes

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Return Service Requested

Blessings to:

