

West Barre Witness

March 2022



Greetings,

I would like to look again at an idea our previous pastor shared at the beginning of Lent.

He said something like this: "So much of the time we think about what we can give up for Lent. How about if we think about things that we normally don't do, and make an effort to do those things during lent?"

So, I encourage you to think of what these things might be. Here are a few possible ideas:

Maybe you don't have a regular prayer time. How about planning one for Lent?

Maybe you don't have a regular devotional time. You are welcome to a copy of a daily devotional called 'The Upper Room' at the back table and in the chapel. It has been a guide and help to many people in our congregation.

You might decide to share your faith with one other person at least once a week.

You can probably think of many other things. The point is, Lent is a time for repentance, reflection, and self-examination. What are ways I can respond? Our theme for Lent is: "Growing Relationships Require Interaction". So, what ways can I interact with God? What ways can He interact with me? What are the things that can bring me into a closer, more meaningful relationship with Him?

James the apostle exhorts us to "Draw near to God." And he encourages us with a promise if we do that. "And he will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

May this season of Lent be a time of drawing closer, feeling and experiencing His presence, and of Him drawing closer to you.



Pastor Jim

In darkness, God's truth shines most clear.

~ The Blessings of Spring ~

*There are many blessings,
that each new Spring brings -
you can see it bloom about
and hear the song it sings.*

*With winters bleakness over,
and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life
Springtime loves to spread.*

*As God unfolds the flowers,
and their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
grace in our hearts will grow.*

*He sends us the robin's song,
with the promise to provide
a shelter under His mighty wing
where in His love we can abide.*

*He melts the snowy covers,
and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His mercies
to heal winter's ache and pain.*

*God's given to all His Son,
to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring . . .
is keeping Jesus in our sight!*

Author - Debra

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land."



September Auction

The West Barre Church Auction is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022. We are looking for quality items to auction as a fundraiser for the church. There is some storage for auction items in the parsonage garage. As you are cleaning out, please consider donating to the church auction. Items that are popular at our auction include: antiques, perennials from the garden, homemade items like quilts and baby blankets, newly canned goods, garden produce, fresh baked items like pies and cookies, handmade crafted items, collectables, small furniture and other gently used items. We do plan to offer "Table Top" items in the West Barre Store sometime this spring and again in the fall after the auction. If you would like to donate items, please contact a Trustee member.



There are so many times I have denied you,
to protect myself or put things I want ahead of you.
Lord, will you call my name?
Will you forgive me and embrace me with your grace?



CALENDAR

3/8 Ad Council 6:30 pm
3/14 Trustees meet 6:30 pm

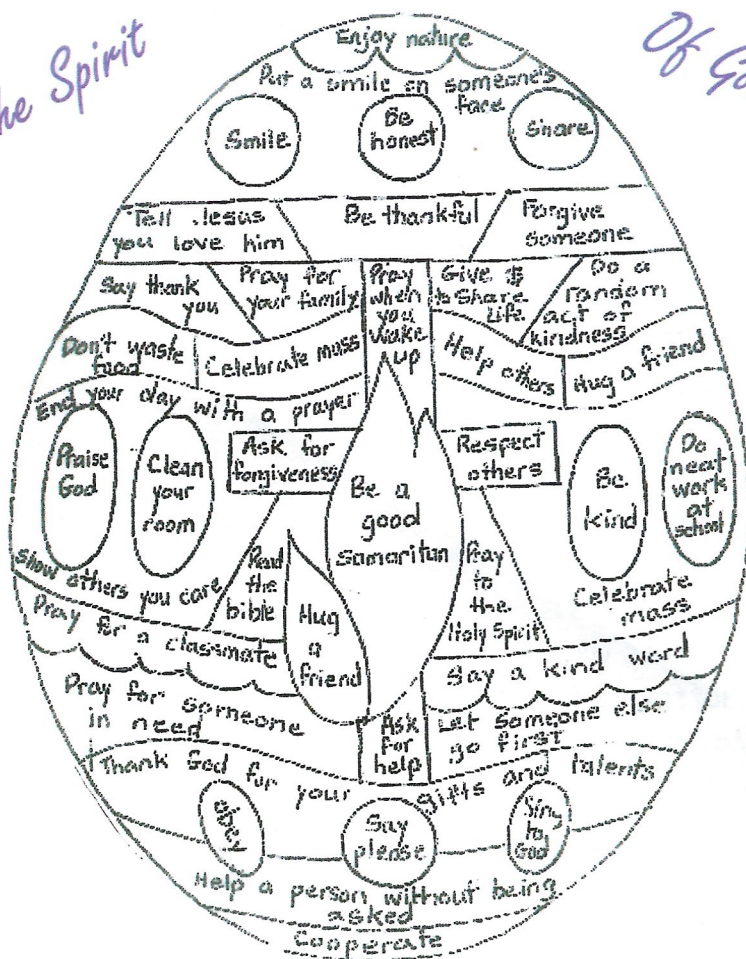


Dear Lord,

As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as *You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross* that we might receive the gift of *Eternal Glory with You. Amen.*

The Spirit

Of God



Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

Lanor Markle's Uncle Bill
Lynette & Gary Preston
Lanor Markle's niece Evon
Men's club
Joe
Kathy Huffman
Joy that the sun is out more
Fellowship hall decorations

PRAISE/CONCERN

Mary Shuler
Karen Markle
Darryl Green
Max
Care Net Ministry

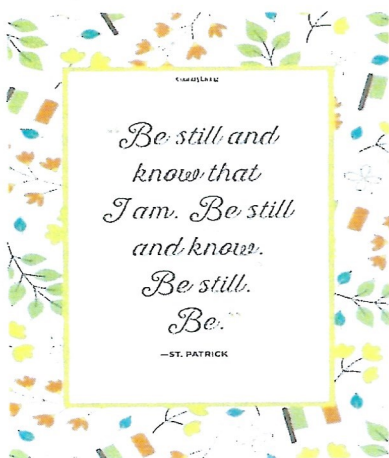
CONCERNS

Family of Marge Davis
Cheryl Maxon's son-in-law Tom
Dayle & Dennis Beedham
Marilyn Ostafew's friends
Ukraine/Russia
Dennis Oberther
Liam Leader
Al & Karen Evans
Alice Mathes' nephew Dustin
Jann Davis
Judy Durrant
Unity of U.S.
Lanor Markle's friend John Kasmer
Kathy Huffman's friend Michelle
Anna Mathes
Charlie Walter
Sharon Schlegel
Tim Wolcott
Nichole Bloom



Happy March Birthday & Anniversary*

- 7 Shellie Mull
- 8 Vicki Houseknecht
- 9 Doris Antinore
- 18 Bill Caldwell
- 22 Ed & Vicki Houseknecht*
- 24 Steve Hickman
- Lois Nesbitt
- 29 Melanie Hickman



THE FAMILY CIRCUS*

By Bill Kean

