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Pastor Notes for March 2021: Walking Through the Mess in Lent

This time of year can be a little messy, yes? Even as I write this, the ground is muddy from the abundance of rain we've had recently. There are many pools of water all around – so be careful out there! It's just a little messy right now with lots of "yuck!" everywhere. And yet, the mess can also be seen as a welcome sight knowing Spring is just around the corner.



The same thing can be said about the season of Lent (which in Old English means "spring!"). Starting on Ash Wednesday, Lent can be a bit messy. (You try making the ashes!) But that's kind of the point of Lent. Life is messy at times and never perfect. We are prone to sin. We mess up, hurting others and ourselves. Lent reminds us that we are human.

And so on Ash Wednesday we are marked with a little mess on our foreheads as a reminder of the messiness of this life. But as the season of Lent moves forward, our prayers and music, scriptures and reflections also point us to another reality: all is not lost – because of Jesus. We remember that He, God's son, became one of us and entered the mess alongside us.

We set Lent apart, then, as an intentional time – to be reminded of what Christ has done for us and give thanks. We remember that through Christ we are saved – and the mess of sin we are in – whatever it may be – is wiped clean through His love and sacrifice. Through His saving act – we are set free to fully become the human beings God made us to be – created in God's image and able to see and serve Christ in our every fellow human being.

Lent is also a great time to remember that we are not perfect – but continually being perfected. And being perfected takes practice! There is a great book called *The Walk: 5 Essential Practices of the Christian Faith* by Adam Hamilton. I recommend it to you as a Lenten study. The practices Hamilton suggests are: 1) Increased worship and prayer, 2) time in Bible study, 3) missional service, 4) learning to give selflessly while investing in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven, and 5) faithful sharing of the Good News of our faith with others.

Read it and ask: Do any or all of these ring true for you as areas of your life you'd like to try to practice more? Or maybe the Spirit is calling you in other ways to make this Lent a holy and less messy time. Think about it – but also remember – Lent may be a 6-week season – but our walk with Jesus is for a lifetime.

I look forward to walking every step in the mess of Lent with you.
Pastor Mark

LOOKING AHEAD: SPECIAL HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES

We are hoping to offer special Holy Week and Easter services. Please keep an eye and ear out for church announcements as we keep a watch for COVID recommendations to assure safety for all.

But do "pencil in" Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and of course, Easter Sunday!



Thank you to everyone who ordered subs and assisted in preparing the subs for our Youth Sub Sale! This year we sold 114 subs and 53 nonperishable items, more than doubling last year. The funds from the sale will help the youth to attend the Massanetta Youth Conference or a Christian Summer camp, based on ages of the youth. The Massanetta's Middle School Conference transforms the faith journey of hundreds of middle schoolers from all around the country. Every aspect of this conference is crafted with middle schoolers in mind. Conference activities like keynote, recreation, encounter groups, and workshops are centered on the theme of the summer. All the youth greatly appreciate everyone's support!

S'more Time with Jesus will start back up on Friday, March 12th with Family Bingo night, outside weather depending. March 26th will be a Messy Church night with the theme being "Holy Week" and a Journey to the Cross. All are welcome to help and attend these great nights of Faith, Family and Fellowship. S'more Time with Jesus and Messy Church are on the 2nd and 4th Fridays beginning at 6:00 pm.

With the weather hopefully getting warmer we will also be looking for volunteers in March to assist with putting the playset together for the playground. Once a time and date is set it will be announced during church.





What a great Souper Bowl of Caring! We had so many donations of nonperishable goods we are stocked up for the Blessing box and even able to share with the Spirit Kitchen! The youth helped collect items during the Sub Sale a "Meal with a Mission". 53 items were collected on Super Bowl Sunday. An additional 65 items were collected throughout the month of January and February.

For the month of March our mission focus is going to be "Operation We Care". The listed items are being collected.

Operation We Care Shopping List

This column contains the items that are most needed. We try and include them in every box.	✓
Baby Wipes	
Body Wash	
Granola Bars	
Lip Balm	
Chef Boyardee Pasta - 15oz cans	
Hot Chocolate Packets	
Deck of Cards	
Dental Floss	
Deodorant (non - aerosol)	
Disposable Razors	
Gum/Breath Mints	
Ink Pens	
Instant Oatmeal	
Microwave Popcorn	
Pop Tarts	
Powdered Drink Mixes	
Ramen Noodles (brick style not cups)	
Shampoo	
Small Personal Kleenex	
Toothbrushes	
Toothpaste	



MARCH DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

Drive-up or Delivery 4:00-5:30pm

**DDQ Beef Sandwich or Hot Dog,
Cole Slaw, Baked Beans and Dessert**

Please place your orders before Thursday, March 18 using the sign-up sheets at Church or by calling or texting Cindi Pruitt (443-880-5502). Indicate how many of each entrée you need as well as whether you will pick-up your dinners or would like them to be delivered. Spread the word and share this outreach with your friends, neighbors, anyone who would benefit from a hot, homemade meal.



Your Deacons in Action...

The Congregational Life Committee is sure keeping us busy being able to check on our seniors and shut-ins while delivering some delicious meals. Thanks for all your hard work!

We have had a request from a family member to bring Sunday dinner to one of our seniors. There are health care providers that prepare food and provide company during the week, but Sunday is a down day. If you would be interested in visiting a Buckingham member and providing a meal Sunday afternoon please let me know and we can discuss details. Carol Neal 410-629-0181.

We have received a request to help with an electric bill. As always, Carol Rose is checking this out before we send a check.

The Deacons helped Pastor Mark prepare the ashes for Ash Wednesday and assisted in distributing them during the Wednesday evening service.

The Deacons are working with the new Prayer Shawl Ministry to bring prayers and shawls to our seniors and those we think would like to have them. They are beautiful and are knitted or crocheted by members of Buckingham. If you know of someone that would like one, or needs one, or even yourself, please let us know.



May the power and the Grace of God
Warm you when you are cold
May He cradle you and comfort you
in the lonely times
May He give you strength and hope
When you need it the most
And may this shawl warm your heart
in those difficult times
May it be your safe haven
As you wrap it around you tight
Know that God is with you
And Blessing you every night.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

COME AND JOIN US!!

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting every Wednesday afternoon from 1-3 pm at Buckingham Church. Anyone interested in joining our fellowship will be welcomed. Even if you do not crochet or knit, we would love to have you join and we are willing to teach anyone that wants to learn. It is a great time to appreciate and count our many Blessing as we create incredibly special one-of-a-kind Prayer Shawls or Lap Blankets for someone who is in need of Love, Comfort, Compassion, and a reminder of how much GOD LOVES THEM!!

If you need any more information, please contact Cindy Scukanec at 410-726-7713.

*I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace.*

*In the world you will have trouble
But take heart!*

I have overcome the world.

John 16:33-



3/1	LYNDA Truitt
3/2	Skylar Cook TAMMY Nickell
3/10	SUZANNE Parks
3/14	CHRISTOPHER Bunting
3/18	DOROTHY Simpson ERIN Trask
3/21	WENDY Macrides
3/22	Ella Gaddis Scout Vocke
3/24	VICTORIA Harsh
3/26	Fred Moore

3/15	Simpson, Gil & DOROTHY
3/17	Fisher, JOHN & Carol
3/31	Davis, STEVE & LOIS



A Note from Historian Lynne Murray

Dear BPC Friends,

I think you will forgive me for again posting my Gram article from October 2020 about my friend Madeline Moore. When I received Pastor Mark's email informing us of her passing on February 7, I was truly saddened. Many of you will recall Madeline's many years as a choir member and although I participated for a number of years, she served for more than 50 years. I spoke with Madeline in September before writing the article and she was in good spirits and we humorously reminisced about our ill-fated trip to camp. I remember her fondly and wish to again share with you one of my most special memories of Madeline.

Many of you know Madeline West Moore. Madeline is a lovely lady and has been one of the most dedicated people to Buckingham that I can recall. She and husband Fred live behind the church on Grace Street in the house she shared with her older sister Olive West. Olive and Madeline were two of fourteen children, 9 girls and 5 boys. Madeline's only remaining sibling passed away just last month. Olive was thirty years older than Madeline and the two shared a very special relationship as Olive also adopted Madeline as her own child. I remember Olive quite clearly, she was always beautifully dressed and groomed, and of course in those days wore a hat to church!

No event at BPC was conducted without the help of the West ladies. You knew they could be depended upon to work at gatherings of any kind, be it a church event or a fundraiser. Madeline kept up that work long after Olive's passing, until she has regretfully found health issues have curtailed her physical involvement. Madeline is the proud possessor of a 50 year pin for singing in the choir, an activity that she kept up for years after receiving the award. She also directed the Youth Choir for many years.

My most special memory of Madeline was our ill-fated trip to camp at Massanetta, Virginia. Reverend Strome had come here from New Jersey and his former church always sponsored a retreat at Massanetta, so he arranged for our youth to attend camp when the New Jersey people were there. My mother volunteered to drive some kids to the camp so Madeline and I were in her car. By the time we got to the Shenandoah Valley I felt like we had driven from the West Coast. Things didn't get any better after we got there. We only had a snack on the road instead of stopping for a lengthy lunch, but there was no place to get anything to eat until the dining room opened for dinner. The New Jersey people weren't very friendly, and by my regular bedtime I was beginning to focus on mother's leaving without me the next day. We were then informed to stay up and meet with our counselor at 11 pm. I was exhausted, and that's about the time this odd tightness started in my throat. By morning the tightness had dissolved into tears and I blubbered to Mother that I was going home with her.

Then I scouted the Buckingham troupe to see who I could talk into going back home with me so I wouldn't look like the only misfit. I was disgusted with Carol Cathell and Kay Harrison for deciding to stay, but to Madeline's everlasting credit she was as eager to get back to Berlin as I was! I don't think we ever see each other to this day that we don't laugh about our experience, or lack thereof, at camp!

Happy Trails, Lynne

Madeline W. Moore, age 82, of Berlin died Sunday, February 7, 2021 at home. Madeline was born in Salisbury and was the daughter of the late James Edward and Olive Mae (Quillen) West. She retired from Merial Select Laboratory in Berlin as a lab technician. Madeline was a member of Buckingham Presbyterian Church where she had served as an Elder, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and sang in the Choir for over 50 years.



A Lenten Wilderness Meditation

Take a moment to picture yourself in the wilderness -
let an image come to mind.

What does your wilderness look like?

What's there that has you worried or scared?

What temptations do you face?

What wild beasts are nipping at your feet?

Don't panic - just take a moment to breathe - you're not alone.

Who are the angels whom God has sent to be by your side?

A friend? A family member? A neighbor?

Let them come to mind and give thanks.

Decide to accept their help.

Dig in deep - feel the Holy Spirit in you - giving you strength -

Helping you to re-envision this wilderness -

Not as a place of fear - but for growth and learning -

about yourself for deepening your trust - your faith -

your need for God -

And God's promises of steadfast love in Jesus...

who is right there in the wilderness with you.

Remind yourself of that reality - and say to yourself:












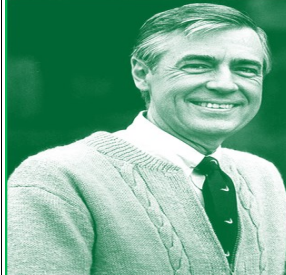
"I will survive this with His help. Amen."





2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Session—Special Open Mtg. 6pm Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bible study 6-7:30pm</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon</p>	<p>6</p> <p>NCP 855th Stated Mtg. 11am— 1:30pm Zoom meeting</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9am Contemporary 11am Traditional</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm Trustee Mtg. 6:30pm meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bible study 6-7:30pm</p> 	<p>12 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon</p> <p>S'More Jesus— Family Bingo Nite 6pm</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9am Contemporary 11am Traditional</p> <p>Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible study 6-7:30pm</p> 	<p>19 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon</p>	<p>20 Drive-thru/ Delivery Dinner 4-5:30pm BBQ Beef or Hot Dog, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Dessert—Sign-up or Call Cindi 443- 880-5502</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9am Contemporary 11am Traditional</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bible study 6-7:30pm</p> 	<p>26 Pastor Hrs. 10am-Noon</p> <p>Messy Church "Holy Week" 6pm</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am Contemporary 11am Traditional Holy Week Begins</p>  <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Sharing & Caring 6:30pm</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 3-5pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pastor Hrs. 1-3pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1-3pm</p>	 <p><i>There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.</i></p> <p>—Mister Rogers</p>		

EASTER FLOWERS 2021

It's time once again to get ready for the glory of Easter by helping to beautify our Church Sanctuary. This year, Easter is celebrated on April 4th.

We offer the following for your consideration and selection. Please complete the form below and forward along with your check to the church office by **Sunday, March 28th**.

Thank you for sharing your choices and helping to bring the beauty of Springtime to Buckingham's Easter Celebration. Please mail your check to Buckingham Presbyterian Church 20 South Main St. Berlin, MD 21811. Memo Easter Flowers

I would like to order:



_____ 6" Hyacinth @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____

_____ 6" Tulips @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____

_____ 6" Daffodils @ \$8.00 ea. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Bulletin & Gram Dedication—PLEASE PRINT:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Name (s) / Given By _____

Please remember to pick-up your flowers following the 11am Easter worship service.

Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be distributing flowers to the nursing homes.

If you wish to deliver your flowers to a member who is homebound, please make your own visitation arrangements. Thank you!