

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1401 WEST MAIN ST

SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504

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MARCH



2024



A STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Years ago, Chinese farmers decided they would eat the good big potatoes and just use the small ones for seed. A new understanding of the laws of life came to them when, through the years during which they kept up the practice, nature reduced all their potatoes to the size of marbles! Those farmers learned through bitter experience that they could not keep the best things of life for themselves and use the leftovers for seed. The laws of life decreed that the harvest would reflect the planting.

“Planting small potatoes” is still common practice. Too many folks take all the big things of life for themselves and only plant the leftovers. They expect that by some crazy twist of the laws of nature their selfishness will reward them with blessings.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Proverbs 3:9

***OF SPECIAL NOTE:** Pastor Vicki has been notified from her health insurance carrier the annual cost of her insurance premium to the church has decreased by \$3,756.00! YEAH!!!*

LIFEWISE ACADEMY — CLARK SHAWNEE SCHOOL

Did you know that we at Grace UMC are involved with the LifeWise Academy—Clark-Shawnee School? This is a Christian program that reaches out to unchurched public school students with Biblical instructions. At this time we have 35 students of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders and are continually added more children with plans to add 4th, 5th and 6th graders next year.

Children are bused from the school (2.2 miles) one day a week (Tuesdays) to RiverSong church for a school class period where they are met by trained, certified teachers and volunteers to receive Bible based character building education. On their first day each child receives a Bible, a LifeWise t-shirt and a folder with activity sheets centered on the day's Bible story to share with their parents. A parent must sign a permission slip for a student to attend.

You would be amazed at how quickly students are learning about the Word of God from memorizing scripture verses, learning quality words (righteousness, perseverance, trustworthiness), and exploring Old Testament stories and how they relate to Jesus. The LifeWise three-fold focus is on Head—knowing what the Bible says; Heart—how Bible stories affect our needs and desires in life, and Hands—living in order that our character reflects Christ.

Jennifer Sabo and Mary Ahlborn are volunteers at LifeWise Academy along with Dave Speas and Bruce Eckler serving on the board. They will answer any questions you may have about the program. Should you know of a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grader who goes to Clark-Shawnee School, please let us know. LifeWise is a privately funded organization supported by donations and fundraisers. Should you wish to Donate to LifeWise as an extra offering, please write LifeWise beside the amount on your church offering envelope.



Grace-full Easter

We are putting together 50 Easter baskets for the Lifewise program. We are asking for donations of wrapped candy and small (regular) size plastic eggs, not the large ones, and Easter grass. We all also accept cash donations for the project. We need all donations to the church by March 13th. On Thursday, March 14th at 10:00 A.M, we'll be gathering to assemble the baskets. Everyone is invited to attend to help. We always have a lot of fun. Thank you for helping Grace Church be a blessing to these young children.

Lenten ABCs

A is for abundant living- John 10:10

B is for the beauty of the earth- Psalm 95:4-5

C is for courage- Joshua 1:9

D is for determination- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

E is for empathy- Romans 12:15

F is for faith- 2 Corinthians 5:7

G is for grace- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

H is for holiness- 1 Peter 1:15-16

I is for inventiveness- Exodus 31:3

J is for joyfulness- Galatians 5:22

K is for kindness-Proverbs 19:17

L is for Love-Colossians 3:14

M is for mercy- Matthew 5:7

N is for newness-2 Corinthians 5:17

O is for obedience- John 14:15

P is for patience-Ecclesiastes 7:8

Q is for quietness-Psalm 131:2

R is for righteousness- 2 Timothy 2:22

S is for saintliness-1 Corinthians 1:30

T is for truthfulness-John 14:6

U is for unity-Philippians 2:2

V is for victory- Deuteronomy 20:4

W is for worthiness-Psalm 139:13-14

X is for xenial- Matthew 19

Y is for yearning-Psalm 42

Z is for zealous-1 Corinthians 14:12

Of all the words and scripture addresses I gathered the one for the letter x was the most challenging. In case, like me, you have not been familiar with the word xenial, let me explain Xenial means, "A friendly relationship between two parties, in particular a hospitable host and his or her guests."

In scripture (Matthew 19) we find Jesus welcoming the little children to come to him. In Matthew 14:14, we find Jesus feeding the 5000. In Genesis 1:1 we find Jesus was with God at the creation of the world. All three of these are examples of xenial relationships. So, we know to be xenial is to be in a relationship. God desires to be in relationship with us.

Each one of the Lenten ABC's gives us food for thought. But none more than xenial, which points us to draw closer to our Lord during this Lenten season, as we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Easter.

May God give us a xenial blessing and a joyful Easter.

Pastor Vicki

March 1	Isaiah 35:8
March 2	Psalms 119:127-128
March 3	Psalms 56:13
March 4	Joshua 21:45
March 5	Deuteronomy 7:6
March 6	Proverbs 16:16
March 7	Deuteronomy 12:7
March 8	Psalms 145:7
March 9	Proverbs 1:7
March 10	Romans 12:1
March 11	1Chronicles 22:19
March 12	James 1:12
March 13	Ephesians 1:4
March 14	Psalms 119:114
March 15	Colossians 3:12
March 16	Psalms 132:16
March 17	1Chronicles 29:17
March 18	Psalms 70:4
March 19	2Timothy 2:22
March 20	Colossians 1:6
March 21	Ephesians 2:21
March 22	Matthew 8:26
March 23	Psalms 61:4
March 24	Psalms 91:2
March 25	1Peter 2:5
March 26	1Peter 2:9
March 27	Deuteronomy 12:5
March 28	Isaiah 42:6
March 29	Jeremiah 29:13
March 30	Hebrews 10:10
March 31	Psalms 139:1

Prayers Needed:

Jack Yeager

Millie Luttrell

Phyllis & Larry Garber

Jeanne & Shelley Powell

Lois Strobel

Janet Blazer



Shower of Blessings

Recipient for March:

Claudia Clark
4675 New Carlisle Park
Springfield, OH 45504



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	11 am Soap Making 7pm NA	10 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir	6 pm Trustee MT		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7pm NA	10 am Library Paint 7pm Men's BS	7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir	6:30pm All Church	10 am Lifewise Easter Baskets	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7pm NA	7pm Men's BS	7pm NA	10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir	Holy Thursday, 11 am and 7 pm	Good Friday, 11 am and 7 pm	
31						
Easter Sunday						
7pm NA						

March Worship Participants



<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
Acolyte	March	Larry Campbell
Communion Set-up	March 3	Pastor Vicki
Communion Servers	March 3	Gail & Bruce Eckler Connie Mitchell & Betty Prosser
Communion Clean-up	March 3	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	March 3 - 10 March 17-31	Gene & Pat Hart Connie Mitchell
Greeter – Sanctuary Door	March 3- 10 March 17-31	Pattie Mumma Karen & Dave Speas
Liturgist	March 3- 10 March 17-24 Mar 29 March 31	Dave Speas Barbara McCoy Barbara McCoy, Bruce Eckler Ingrid Mossbarger
Ushers	March 3- 10 March 17-24 March 28-31	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Bruce Eckler & Larry Campbell Donna Myers & Larry Campbell

<u>Counters</u>	<u>Special Music</u>
March 4 Mary Ahlborn & Jennifer Sabo	March 3 Becky Frantz
March 11 Mary Ahlborn & Jackie Gregory	March 10 Jim Mayhugh
March 18 Marilyn Martin & Jennifer Sabo	March 17 Choir
March 25 Kim Stehle & Connie Mitchell	March 28 Becky Frantz
	March 24 Cantata
	March 31 Jayme Tatro

HAPPY Easter

			5	1				
2		3						
1			3		2			7
				5				1
			6					
		9					4	2
	8		7		5	1	9	
		6			4	8	3	
						2		

	4							
	8				3			1
2		3						5
8			2					7
4	7							2
			4				2	9
9				1				6
7	5	4	9					8

