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Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

SEASON OF LENT 2016

#### WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

#### WHEN IS LENT?

It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (a tithe of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from February 10 (Ash Wednesday) to March 27 (Easter), 2016.

## Be Holy for Lent

**L**ent is a holy journey with God, but what does it mean exactly to be "holy"? For some, it's all about doing the right thing and not messing up. We turn Christianity into a list of rules and put God at the top of a staircase we're determined to climb. But what if holiness is not good marks on a chalkboard but a gift from God?

Pastor and author Brian Coulter has penned a series of brief daily reflections, paired with a short, ancient form of praise and petition called a breath prayer, to explore what holiness means for Christians today. He invites us to receive from God this blessed gift that makes our lives more compelling, more enjoyable, and more faithful.

Each day of the devotional includes a Scripture passage, a reflection on what it means to be holy, and a breath prayer to carry with you through the day.

#### Useful words to know:

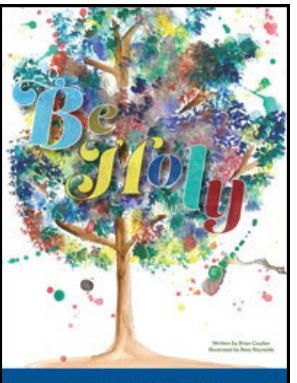
- **holy**—set apart and sacred
- **saints**—the holy ones
- **consecrate**—to make holy
- **sanctified**—to be made holy

#### What is a breath prayer?

A breath prayer is a short, ancient form of praise and petition. You breathe in and out as you name God and your desire.

You can't always stop into a church or find somewhere to kneel or light a candle or even close your eyes and bow your head. But you can always pray. Especially if you cultivate the habit of "breath prayers." They are simple prayers. Short. Easy. They can be spoken in a single breath and repeated numerous times throughout the day. But the habit of "breath prayers" can make a huge difference in your life as they help you to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Use the prompts provided each day as you try this contemplative prayer style.



## OUR MISSION

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community that, through the love of God in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, uncovers the spiritual gifts of believers, equipping and sending them into the world to share God's love.

Based on the four New Testament Marks of the Church, we are guided to:  
**Worship, Connect, Serve & Grow**

## LENT 2016 AT PEACE

This brief newsletter is part of a packet to help you observe a Holy Lent in preparation for Easter. Make sure you also have copies of the following:

- ☐ "Be Holy" Devotional
- ☐ Reading Guide for Luke
- ☐ Pastoral Perspective from Pastor Bob

#### For more information

on the ministries of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, or to find out how you can serve, please visit our website, contact the church office or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

(727) 446-3001  
www.PeaceMemorial.org  
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#### Christmas Fun at Peace Memorial! Get involved for Lent & Easter!





*The Bible is God's living word to us. God's messages to us through the Word are constantly changing as we live our lives. Join us to nourish yourself with God's word and grow in the greater body of Christ.*

### Read the Book of Luke!

Use the enclosed reading plan to read the gospel according Luke during Lent. Pastor Bob will be preaching from this narrative through Easter. Use this time to refresh yourself with the whole story.

## CONNECTING WORSHIP AND DAILY LIVING DURING LENT

Lent is a time of preparation for the initiation of people into the Christian life in baptism. It is also a time for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and funereal in anticipation of Good Friday. The Sundays of Lent are not part of the forty days of Lent and so remain "little Easters," as are all Sundays. Fasting and giving up something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on some things. Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a necessary prelude. The death and resurrection of Christ are true whether or not I prepare for Easter.

However, without your heart and life being ready, you may not experience the depth and power of Christ's death and resurrection. So with your Peace Memorial Family commit yourself to disciplines for conversion from sin and death to love and life in Jesus Christ. With the aid of the list below, try to make the following commitments to discipline and growth for the next six weeks: (Check the ones you desire or feel prompted to do; circle the ones you then decide to do.)

#### Inward and Personal Disciplines:

- \_\_\_ Spend time in solitude each day.
- \_\_\_ Share in the Lenten Devotional, "Be Holy"
- \_\_\_ Read a book for inner growth.
- \_\_\_ Read through the gospel of Luke.
- \_\_\_ Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- \_\_\_ Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- \_\_\_ Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
- \_\_\_ Find a way to go to bed earlier or sleep in so I get enough rest.
- \_\_\_ Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- \_\_\_ Take control of my life by \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- \_\_\_ Take one hour to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- \_\_\_ Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.
- \_\_\_ Forgive someone who has hurt me.



#### Outward and Social Disciplines:

- \_\_\_ Take on some loving task:
- \_\_\_ Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.
- \_\_\_ Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.
- \_\_\_ Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service:
- \_\_\_ Go to coffee or dinner with someone I want to know better.
- \_\_\_ Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- \_\_\_ Decide to be a more active member of the church and speak to a pastor
- \_\_\_ Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.
- \_\_\_ Find a way to live out the baptismal promise to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression" in the power and liberty God gives us by \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ Host a small group of other Christians in my home.

#### As a way of being accountable, I will either:

- \_\_\_ Share my intentions for Lent with my Covenant Discipleship group at its next meeting, or
- \_\_\_ Share my plan with at least one other person and share with that person my experience of Lent during Holy Week.

## CHURCH-WIDE MISSION PROJECT FOR LENT

What if not having sanitary supplies meant DAYS without school? Days of isolation? Girls use leaves, mattress stuffing, newspaper, corn husks, rocks, anything they can find...but still miss up to 2 months of education and opportunity every year. It turns out this issue is a surprising but instrumental key to social change for women all over the world. Noreen from Kenya wrote, "When we have those kits, we can do something great!"

DAYS FOR GIRLS is an organization that helps girls in over 85 countries gain access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene, vital health knowledge, and income-generation opportunities. Mandy Smith has started to make 100 bags to donate to help DAYS FOR GIRLS.

We thought the church could help make her goal possible! We will also be collecting for local outreach opportunities— RCS Haven and our own Peace Café.

We will update you with dates to share your sewing talents for drawstring bags. In the meantime please collect the following:

- ☐ Travel-sized soap
- ☐ 2 pairs of panties (adult size for local mission, Girls Size 10-14 for Days for Girls)
- ☐ Feminine Products (all types and sizes)
- ☐ One Gallon Non-slider Ziploc Bags
- ☐ Washcloths

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- February 7** Pancake Sunday  
Jazz Worship (10:30 am)  
Pancake Brunch to follow
- February 10** Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)  
Soup Dinner (6pm)  
Service (7pm)
- February 14** First Sunday of Lent  
Concert Series (3pm)
- February 20** Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering (St. Andrews)
- February 21** Second Sunday of Lent
- February 24** More Than a Meal
- February 28** Third Sunday of Lent
- March 6** Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Celebrate the Gifts of Women  
Communion Served
- March 13** Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Presbyterian Women Bake Sale  
Concert Series (3pm)
- March 20** Passion/Palm Sunday  
Church-wide Picnic
- March 24** Maundy Thursday
- March 25** Good Friday
- March 27** Easter/Resurrection of our Lord  
Sunrise Service (8 am)  
Easter Workshop, Egg Hunt & Brunch (9 am)  
Worship (10:30 am)

## OFFICERS & COUNCILS

We all know from experience - any time you try to coordinate the lives and efforts of any more than a handful of people, you need to have leaders. The Presbyterian Church believes that *all* are called to serve and participation in the life of the church. Prayerfully consider how you can be involved in 2016. Consider serving on one of the following councils. Contact the elder listed below for meeting times and dates.

#### Worship Council

*Ruling Elders:* Doug White, Len Horst, and Jennifer Munro-Golliher

#### Christian Nurture Council

*Ruling Elders:* Anne Shaw and Robin Pitchford

#### Outreach/Communications Council

*Ruling Elders:* Jennifer Munro-Golliher and Jewell Coleman

#### Property Council

*Ruling Elders:* Ford Reagan and Gary Duff

#### Finance Council

*Ruling Elder:* Dave Bostick

#### Personnel Council

*Ruling Elder:* Glenn Anderson and Martha McBride

#### Deacon Ministries and Projects

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Flowers order forms will be coming soon. Watch for the insert in upcoming bulletins or call the church office to purchase a flower in honor or memory of a loved one.

*The Church is the body of Christ both in its corporate life and in the lives of individual members, and is called to give shape and substance to this truth.*



## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2015/6	2014/5	2013/4
Nov 29 196	Nov 30 178	Dec 1 135
Dec 6 169	Dec 7 170	Dec 8 162
Dec 13 202	Dec 14 158	Dec 15 166
Dec 20 204	Dec 21 225	Dec 22 134
Dec 24 -	Dec 24 -	Dec 24 -
5pm 148	5pm 156	5pm ???
7pm 220	7pm 194	7pm 186
11pm 97	11pm 59	11pm -
Dec 27 142	Dec 28 138	Dec 29 130
Jan 3 168	Jan 4 191	Jan 5 144
Jan 10 183	Jan 11 179	Jan 12 170
Jan 17 196	Jan 18 172	Jan 19 161
Jan 24 177	Jan 25 181	Jan 26 162