



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 27, NO. 9

March, 2017



MARCH 1st—ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Disciples Christian Church

3663 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Hts.

Dinner: 6:00 pm † Worship: 6:45 pm



March 5	1 st Sunday in Lent	<i>Family Worship</i>	Matthew 4:1-11
March 12	2 nd Sunday in Lent	<i>Born Again</i>	John 3:1-17
March 19	3 rd Sunday in Lent	<i>Prayer And Singing</i>	Psalms 95
March 26	4 th Sunday in Lent	<i>Blindness</i>	John 9:1-41
April 2	5 th Sunday in Lent	<i>Jesus Wept</i>	John 11:1-45

Holy Week: *Palm Sunday, April 9* – *Maundy Thursday, April 13* – *Easter, April 16*

Second Hour

Adult Bible Study with Joe LaGuardia continues to lead the in the Library each week. They will continue their exploration of Marcus Borg’s famous book “Reading the Bible Again for the First Time.” Scheduled for March is an exploration of chapter 6: Reading the Prophets Again.” Please come whether you are reading the book or not. Joe will summarize its main points and use them as a launch for lively discussion. All are welcome.

Topic Study

March 5 Lent I Intergenerational Lent Workshop

Everyone is encouraged to attend this session in the Campbell Room to learn more about Lent and develop tools for observing the season.

March 12 Lent II *Compassion, Heartbreak, and Hospitality*

March 19 Lent III *Solitude, Silence and Sabbath*

March 26 Lent IV *Hope, Healing and Gratitude*

April 2 Lent V *Love in Action (Be the Change)*



Lent Study in Spiritual Practices - connecting with our “Practicing Lent” weekly devotional, this study will explore several spiritual disciplines and their contemplative, communal and missional implications. Led by Kate Gillooly.

Lenten Booklets

We are pleased to offer a choice of 3 devotionals this Lenten season. They are available in the Campbell Room or in the Narthex. Check them out and take one home!

Palms and Easter Flowers

Beginning Sunday, March 19th, reservations for Palms and Easter flowers will be accepted. Any dollar amount may be contributed toward palms and/or lilies and tulips for the chancel. Individual potted lilies and tulips will be available on Easter Sunday for \$8 per 6-inch pot. Order forms can be found in the weekly bulletins or call the church office to place your order.

Along The Path . . .



Lent begins this year on the very first day of March and, whether it comes in like a lion or not, I hope this Lent will be meaningful for you. In the past, Lent has often been seen as a time of denial and self-sacrifice with Christians fasting and/or “giving up” something (or many things) that they enjoyed. More recently an emphasis has been placed on “taking something up,” engaging in some meaningful service to the community, or adding a spiritual practice for these forty days.

This year I am hoping that as a community of faith we can give added emphasis to the spiritual aspect of Lent, using it as a time of reflection, prayer, and discernment, individually and as a community. Our Lenten booklets are a place to start, and our Sunday worship will include additional time for prayer, meditation, and reflection. While it is often difficult to find time to nurture our spirits in the busyness of our day to day lives the season of Lent offer a time-limited opportunity to do just that.

So whether you “give up” or “take up” something, I hope that you will enter deeply into the spiritual gift that Lent offers. We will all be the better for it.

...from your Prayer Ministry



Although I still have a bit of Christmas wrapping sitting on the 3rd floor waiting to be stowed in its proper place, we are being plunged into the season of Lent, ready or not! When I was growing up, I was told “it’s time for Lent; what will you give up this year? I’m not sure if I ever understood “why” I needed to “give up” something. I just know every year I said I would give up candy! It certainly didn’t curb my sweet tooth --- and I felt very guilty every time I broke my promise! But I’d think “This is bad but, I’m just a kid and I’ll do better next year.” The truth is, I’m not a kid anymore (at least my body isn’t!) and I’m not much better at “giving something up” than I was back when I was “just a kid”. What I know now is that I need Lent. Now I know in part, the deep sense of calm and peace that comes when I give myself some extra quiet time each day. In those special moments, I feel myself regain my balance and correct my perspective. After all, what we’re focusing on is our tremendous need for God and God’s eagerness to show us how much we’re loved. Try saying that to yourself whenever your mind is floating away: “God is struggling to find ways to show me love as I’ve never known it before.”

The Prayer Ministry’s wish –and prayer—for you is that you will gain new insight into that incredible love in these next 40 days. To help you with some focus, our mini-Lenten Prayer group will present a short thought, to be sent to you each day. Our team is comprised of Kris Eggert, Cindy Maxey, Larry Watson and Joe and Bernadette LaGuardia. If you, by chance, prefer to “unsubscribe from receiving these messages”, let Kese know and your request will be honored.

... Until next time, blessings to all!

BECAUSE YOU CARE Illness—Surgery—Hospitalization

Paul Campbell	Liz Perdue	Lisa Peabody	Natalie Eichar	C.D./Lois Clark
Elizabeth Newman	Shirley Reading	Patty Monroe	Janelle Eccleston	Joe Feudi
Henry Sharpley	“Cas” Castleberry	Alma G. Jones	Nancy Wilson	JoAnn Brown
Merle Passell	Peggy Yeager	Sidney Mallory, Jr.	Paul/Shirley Hummel	
Bernadette LaGuardia		Joe/Barbara Tolley		

Moderator's Musings

Well, here we are with Lent beginning and Easter just around the corner! It has been a busy and productive winter quarter here at HCC. One of the highlights for me has been the opportunity to lead a book study with Kate. It has been an eye-opening experience as we have explored the book **Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World** with a dedicated group of congregants willing to brave four cold, snowy winter nights. The book has inspired us to look at new ways of being church and given us tools, called practices, to use in trying to determine where God wants us to serve in our neighborhood.



One of the first practices is listening. We are encouraged to listen to each other's stories, to explore scripture by dwelling in the word and to listen in the neighborhood. In these places the book suggests we can see, hear and encounter God and the Spirit at work ahead of us. It is an intriguing idea.

The book study has ended, but the group has decided to try out some of the new practices in our congregational life. At most Trustees' meetings we have been dwelling in the word as an opening, centering prelude to the business at hand. Other meetings may want to give this practice a try. If so, feel free to ask Kate or me for information. As spring arrives, we plan to take some walks together to listen in the neighborhood. We want to see who our neighbors are and what is happening in our neighborhood. A key tenet is that we want to join WITH our neighbors, not just do FOR our neighbors.

If this sounds interesting to you, or if you would just like to enjoy a pleasant walk in our neighborhood this spring, watch for announcements of times when we will meet together for a walk. During the course of our study sessions, Rosalind Powell shared a comment that in many ways we are being challenged to "pray with our feet." I'd like to think our walks could be included within that concept. So, wait eagerly for spring and then join us in taking a walk. It is one way to live out the Micah scripture that urges us to "walk humbly with our God" right out into God's creation. It'll be fun!

Jane

Opportunities for Mission

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

Our congregation faithfully strives to act justly and kindly and to live lives of humility; in short, to be disciples. We're always seeking to follow Jesus as he leads us. In January and February, a group of us met on Monday evenings to discuss the book *Joining God, Remaking the Church, Changing the World: the new shape of the church in our time* and to begin to discern where and how God might be leading us to walk with him among our neighbors. On a couple of recent Sunday mornings, Pastor Roger helped us to understand the systemic racism that pervades our society so fully that we often don't see it and he invited us to become more fully an anti-racist church that seeks to transform the society we live in. Two efforts coming out of that are a small group that will look at how our congregation can become fully inclusive and a new webpage to help each other learn about and take action with neighbors to create a more just world.

The new page on our church website is called [Doing Justice](#) and it lists opportunities to learn and act for justice. Please take a look and find an action you can take. As you become aware of new events and actions for justice, please email Pastor Roger, Kate Gillooly, Ben Malkevitch or myself to have it included on the page. If you'd like to explore being part of the small group focused on inclusivity within our congregation, please speak with Pastor Roger.



Please continue to join in our ongoing works of kindness. Your spare change will help feed hungry people in our community through the Shaker Hunger Center. Our gleaning jar is on the table in the Campbell Room every Sunday following church to accept the coins you've gleaned from your pocket, your purse, the table by your bedside, the floor of your car..... We continue to look for donations for Going Home baskets for families leaving the Family Promise shelter for their own homes. And don't forget to add a "brick" to our permeable Wall of Kindness by sharing your acts of kindness at heightscc.org or on the table in the Campbell Room.

Cindy Maxey, Mission Team Leader

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
11:15 a.m. **Coffee Fellowship**
11:30 a.m. **Education Hour**
(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

STAFF

Minister	<i>Rev. Roger D. Osgood</i>
Assistant Minister	<i>Min. Michele Moreland</i>
Minister of Outreach	<i>Rev. Joan Brown Campbell</i>
Director of Music	<i>Ben Malkevitch</i>
Director of Congregational Development	<i>Kate Gillooly</i>
Office Administrator	<i>Kese Webb</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Mike Faust</i>
Childcare	<i>Rosie Scott</i>

OFFICERS

Moderator	<i>Jane Troha</i>
Vice Moderator	<i>Valencia McMillan</i>
Secretary	<i>Grace Loudenstein</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mike Singerman</i>
Assistant Treasurers	<i>Neil Chase, Jim Donald</i>

TELEPHONE: 216.561.4800

EMAILS:

www.heightscc.org	roger.hcc@sbcglobal.net
kese.hcc@sbcglobal.net	katehcc@sbcglobal.net
musichcc@sbcglobal.net	mike.hcc@sbcglobal.net

Monday Evening Lenten Program on Diversity in Community

Together we will seek God's wisdom as we explore the implications of being created in God's image and our call to unity in Christ amid an anxious and divided world.

We will share our own experiences of difference, discrimination, and reconciliation in a respectful and supportive environment. We will learn from each other, and ground ourselves in scripture and prayer.

Please join Kate Gillooly in the Campbell Room at 7:15 p.m. for the next 4 Mondays beginning

March 13 — Session 1
"One body, many parts"

March 20 — Session 2
"The many cultures of me"

March 27 — Session 3
"Discrimination and Hope"

April 3 — Session 4
"The Cycle of Gospel Living"



SAVE THIS DATE Saturday, May 6, 2017

"All Good Things Must Come to An End"



After approximately twenty(20) years of serving the Heights Christian Church immediate and surrounding neighborhoods, the **Giant Garage Sale** will end an era. Let's make this our biggest hoorah ever. Start collecting your items to donate and/or sell at this event.... spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors. You are at an advantage for reserving a table because you are getting the information prior to the post cards that we send to those who had tables last year. They will soon be invited to reserve tables ahead of the larger community.

Donita Singerman, Scott Phelps, and Andrena Jones-Sharp will again co-chair this event while Jack Bigham will do his usual great work of marketing for us. The sign up form will be in future Sunday bulletins.

Let's do this....give it all we've got to personally earn money but more importantly to contribute to the church budget....and **hopefully** have some fun. Of course, on May 7th we will all be exhausted but it will be worth it. We want to again give a shout out to Kathie McWilliams who carried this ball for approximately seventeen(17) years. Thank you Kathie for getting us to this milestone. You did an amazing job!



REMEMBER?



"SPRING FORWARD"

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th

Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead before going to bed Saturday