



Spiritual Disciplines for Lent & Easter

Since the beginning of Lent the congregation has heard the pastor, that's me, encourage taking on a new spiritual discipline or trying more focus on what one is already doing. Why? Because it is a time to grow in our relationship with Christ. Just as we look around and see a few signs of spring, we too need to take steps to bring forth new growth in our spiritual life.

As Christians, our "spiritual disciplines" need to be Biblical opposed to Popular. Donald S. Whitney, in *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, has a comparison chart:

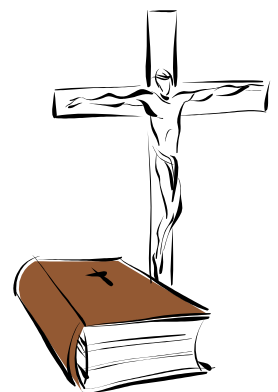
POPULAR SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES ARE:	BIBLICAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES ARE:
For self-improvement	For the spiritual maturity of each person and the community as a whole
For self-realization - the fulfillment of one's abilities and potential	For realization of the fruit of the Spirit in one's life
Based on one's own work and dedication	Based on the work of the Spirit in our lives, the support and encouragement of all believers, and the effort of each believer

As you can see, popular spiritual disciplines are "self" used. Biblical spiritual disciplines are Spirit, God, and community used. While self improvement is always good, focusing on God and others is even better.

While it is challenging to find the time and sometimes even the will to practice new disciplines, they help to get us ready for those difficult times: times of doubt, grief, temptation, and persecution.

Having a deeper relationship with God is the ultimate goal. God does not want us to have a shallow, "Good morning--see you later," type of relationship.¹ God desires those deep, loving, transforming relationships - both individually and as the body. As we draw closer to God, our hearts and minds become more God-like. We experience the world in a new way seeing blessings and injustices more clearly.

It's never too late to begin. Take a look at one of the disciplines (Bible Reading/Study; Prayer; Fasting; Worship; Abstinence; Solitude; Discernment; Evangelism) and grow in your faith. Easter is just around the corner. Let's all be ready to receive this Good News in fresh new ways.



¹ *Spiritual Disciplines*, Rose Publishing, p.4.



Lenten Journey

The season of lent calls us to step into a time of reflection and intentional spiritual growth - opening ourselves to God. Come and continue the Lenten journey with others at each of these special gatherings and worship services.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

6 week Lenten Study Continues - "*The Reason for God*"

- Discussion addressing questions many non-believers (and maybe even some of us) wrestle with.
- Sundays at 5:30 PM, with a potluck; followed by the lesson, 6:00-7:00
 - ◆ Week 3 (March 3) - Why Does God Allow Suffering?
 - ◆ Week 4 (March 10) - Why is the Church Responsible for so Much Injustice?
 - ◆ Week 5 (March 17) - How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time?
How Can God Send Good People to Hell?

JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

- March 24 - Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30 AM
Choir Cantata plus other special aspects
- Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM
Tenenbrae Service with Communion (in Fellowship Hall)
- Prayer Vigil to follow this service through the night
- Friday, March 29 - Good Friday, 1:00 PM - In cooperation with Trinity United Presbyterian Church
 - ◆ Service of the Three Nails
 - ◆ Open To All

EASTER

Sunday, March 31

- 8:30AM - Early Easter Celebration
- 9:00 AM - Easter Breakfast
- 9:30 AM - Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids
- 10:30 AM - Easter Worship Service





The day before Good Friday is called Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "commandment." In the gospel of John, Jesus makes this statement during the Last Supper: "I am with you only a little longer. ... I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:33-35, NRSV).

Maundy Thursday should always be a time of sharing with others, showing loving concern for one another, and partaking of Holy Communion. That is what the Lord asked of his disciples and asks of us.



GOOD FRIDAY?

At first glance, Good Friday appears to be a misnomer. It seems inconsistent that the day of Christ's crucifixion should in any way be described as "good." But that seeming inconsistency vanishes when we understand that the ancient meaning of good was "holy." The word holy is entirely consistent with the suffering and cross that Christ endured for us. Hence, Good Friday is also known as Holy Friday.



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

Easter's Meaning

In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42 percent connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only two percent of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus' birth. Another two percent said it's about Jesus' "rebirth." And one percent said it's a celebration of his second coming. Another three percent described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31 percent of active churchgoers said they'd definitely invite an unchurched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn't know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves!

From the Newsletternewsletter





March 16 9:00 AM

The Property Team needs help in cleaning the sanctuary on Saturday, March 16th. We will be dusting, cleaning and oiling the pews and tending to any other tasks that are necessary to clean the sanctuary. If you are willing to help, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.



March 23, 2013
6:00 PM

Suggested Donation - \$6.00 Adults
\$5.00 Ages 7 - 17
6 & Under - Free

Join us for FPC's first Dinner Theater on Saturday, March 23rd at 6:00 PM, featuring "Murder, Mayhem and Marshmallow Salad". Come join the fun as the cast presents a comical "Who Done It?" Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.



Join us April 7th at 3:00 PM for a concert by the group, "Just Trombones." This is an all-trombone group that performs concerts throughout the year and has agreed to put on a concert at our church this year. Come and enjoy an afternoon of great music! **We need help providing cookies for the reception following the concert.** If you can help, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.




Thursday, April 18th –
Saturday, April 20th

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held on April 18, 19 & 20. Start setting aside items to donate for the sale as you clean and plan for spring. We will be able to accept donations beginning April 14th after the worship service, and all donations must be delivered to the church by the 17th in order for us to get them marked and sorted.



This Month's Schedule



March 3

Communion Preparers: Bob & Bev Blair
Communion Servers: Bob Chase, Bill & Virginia Churchill, Bev Gatenby
Coffee Hour Hosts: Loretta Hudson, Marianna Pendleton
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Brett Albert
Ushers: Dave & Jeanne Blanton, John & Luella Daig
Lay Leader: Carol Dulin
Acolytes: Addison Peter, Josh Younkin
Acolyte Leader: Ben Walther

March 10

Coffee Hour Hosts: Youth Group
Flowers: John & Luella Daig
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: Bob Chase, Bill & Virginia Churchill, Bev Gatenby
Lay Leader: Lynette Daig
Acolytes: Marie Smith, Sydney Specht
Acolyte Leader: Mitchell Albert

March 17

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Blanton Family
Flowers:
Sound Board Operator: Randy Socha
Ushers: Helen & Norm Dickenson, John & Carol Dulin
Lay Leader: Bill Churchill
Acolytes: Lilly & Max Socha
Acolyte Leader: Blair Albert

March 24

Coffee Hour Hosts:
Flowers: Jeanne & Mac McClellan
Sound Board Operator: Scott Tucker
Ushers: David Finley, Gordon & Kay Hall, Brenda Hollenbeck
Lay Leader: Logan Howe
Acolytes: Kaitlyn & Megan Ruppel
Acolyte Leader: Logan Howe




March 29 (Good Friday)

Sound Board Operator:
Ushers:

March 31 (Easter)

Sound Board Operator:
Ushers: Jerry & Loretta Hudson, Lisa & Tim Judson
Lay Leader: Dale Thompson
Acolytes: Elle Blanton, Kaitlyn Estep
Acolyte Leader: Isabella Blanton



Please Note!!

We will no longer be mailing out reminder cards for ushers, lay leaders, acolytes and acolyte leaders. Be sure to consult the schedules previously mailed to you for the dates that you are scheduled to serve.



Lenten
DEVOTIONALS

A variety of Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex. Pick one up and share it with your family during this Lenten season.



March

- 1 Connor Skutt, Jim Wiley
- 5 Butch Albert
- 7 Mitchell Albert
- 8 Shirley Delbridge
- 9 Norma Smith
- 12 Diane Tuttle-Smith
- 13 Flo Marshall
- 14 Richard Aubrey
- 15 Joe Koshaba, Fred Prause
- 16 Joy Shields
- 17 Shirley Baker, Leone Burwell
- 18 Doris Morrish
- 21 Dawn Bitterman, Jeff Gauger,
Vivian Whitmire
- 22 Barb & Kip Hogan, Sue Prevost
- 23 Shirley & William Wolfe
- 24 Pippi Forbes
- 25 Steven Howe
- 28 Ginnie Panek
- 29 Jeannette Hagenbuch
- 31 Deborah Bayer

CELEBRATE *Diversity*

In an effort to reflect the racial/ethnic composition of Presbyterian Churches, we have been asked to report numbers for the following racial/ethnic groups: Asian, African, African American, Black, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Native American. If you fall into one of these groups, and would like to have yourself counted in our reporting, please contact the church office.



From the Family of Kathryn Nickoley...

Our family would like to thank you so much for the beautiful service you held for our mom, Kathryn Nickoley. At a time when emotions run high, you touched the lives of many of us that were grieving. We can't express enough how you and your congregation went above and beyond to make the day the best it could be. Your time, caring thoughts and personable ways were much needed.

A special thanks to the people who assisted in the luncheon held after the service. I know that there were many people (seen and unseen) that participated in providing food and serving the luncheon. We extend our thankfulness to all those caring people.

Again, thank you for your time and thoughtfulness during this time. Many heartfelt thanks from the Nickoley family.

From Mary Graham...

Thank you to all of you who have provided cards for our card ministry. Keep them coming, as I send out many cards on behalf of our church. I am always in need of sympathy, get well and thinking of you cards.

I want to remind you that we also send cards to people who are not members of our congregation. If you have requested prayers for friends or family members, I can send a card if you will contact me with their full name and address.



The email address for the church office is
flushingpc@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to send an email directly to Pastor Teresa Peterson, her email address is:
flushingpcpastor@sbcglobal.net



Financial Highlights

Average 2013 Collections	\$3,203
Average January Collections	\$3,203
Average 2012 Collections	\$3,734
Average needed for Budget	\$4,202

Lectio Readings

March 3: Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 10: Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 17: Isa. 43:16-21; Ps. 126; Phil. 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 24 (Palm Sunday): *Palms:* Luke 19:28-40; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29 *Passion:* Isa. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-24 *or* Luke 23:1-49

March 31 (Easter): Acts 10:34-43 *or* Isa. 65:17-25; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-14; 1 Cor. 15:19-26 *or* Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 *or* Luke 24:1-12

Easter Evening: Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49



Cantata Rehearsals

The Chancel Choir will be singing a cantata on Palm Sunday entitled, "*I Danced In the Morning.*"

Rehearsals are being held on Thursdays at 7:45 PM. We would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the congregation to join the Chancel Choir in singing on this special day! If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Schmoak.



From The Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC)...

During the month of January, Flushing Christian Outreach Center served over 200 families. Thanks to your donations of food, clothing and money, we are able to help as many people as walk through our doors.

We have some new things to add to our donation list. Food donations include: Peanut butter, Ramen noodles and tuna fish. Because you have been so generous in your donations of cereal, we don't need cereal at this time. Clothing donations include: Men's jeans - all sizes, especially smaller sizes and winter gloves for both men, women and children.

Again, thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Terri Szukhent

Chairperson of Faith Network, FCOC



The **Spiritual Growth Team** is asking for donations of individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning. If you can help, please bring your bags of wrapped candy to the church by **March 24th** and place them in the basket provided in the narthex. Please help us with the return of this much loved event!

Easter Flowers



Each Easter, our sanctuary is decorated with beautiful flowers. You may participate in this endeavor by indicating your willingness to donate (a) plant(s)!! The cost this year is \$13.00 per plant. Please complete this form, enclose your check for \$13.00 per plant, make any memorial or honoraria inscriptions you desire, and place either in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Sunday, March 17**. Thank you for your assistance.

In **HONOR** of _____

Relationship (if any) _____

In **MEMORY** of _____

Relationship (if any) _____

I would like _____ lilies.

I would like _____ tulips.

Your Name _____ Phone Number _____



ONGOING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Book & Breakfast Club meets at 9:30 AM on the first Friday of the month at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. All are welcome!



CDs Available

CD copies of our worship services are available to those who are unable to attend worship on Sunday. Please contact the church office.

Card Ministry



Card Ministry...Sympathy, Get Well, Thinking of You and blank note cards are collected for our ongoing card ministry. Please deliver cards to the church office.



FCOC (Flushing Christian Outreach Center)
One of the ways we support the Outreach Center is by collecting food and personal care items. The collection basket is located by the kitchen door.



Kids Café (A Salvation Army after school feeding program) We support this program by providing 12 dozen cookies to the children once a month. Contact Margaret Meehle if you would like to bake 3 dozen cookies once every 3 months or so.



LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together) is a group that meets for fellowship among all ladies of the church. Trips are planned for all ages to enjoy. Please refer questions to Kelli Peter.



LOGOS

LOGOS is an after school program for children in grades K – 6 that meets on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 6:30 PM during the school year. Contact Bill or Rosie Nicholas for information.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship/Bible Study...This group meets for breakfast and study at 8:30 AM on Thursdays at Liberty Restaurant on Pierson Road. (September through May) All men are welcome.



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is designed to promote fellowship, provide study of topics that would interest young mothers and encourage spiritual growth. MOPS meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, from 9:15 – 11:00 AM.



Music Opportunities

Music Opportunities...The **Chancel Choir** (Vocal choir) has rehearsals at 7:00 PM on Thursdays and the **Handbell Choir** rehearses at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays (September through May). Please contact Marilyn Schmoak for information on these choirs.



The Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is collected by the children of the congregation on the second Sunday of each month. This offering is part of "Two Coins a Meal" that funds hunger programs.



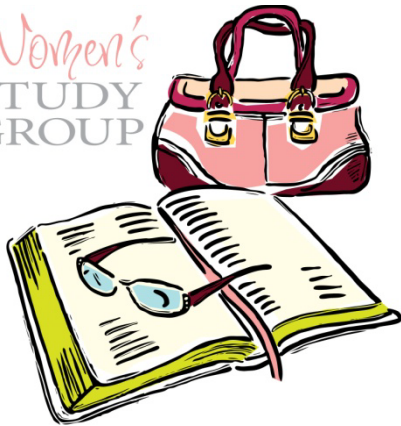
The Perpetual Book Sale...Gently used books can be donated for this sale. Proceeds will be given to local missions. Refer questions to Carol Dulin or the church office.



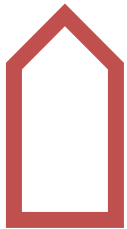
Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Group meets in the church library at 9:30 AM on the second Thursday of each month. Contact Bev Blair with any questions, or if you would like instructions.

Women's
STUDY
GROUP



The Priscilla Circle meets at the church at 9:30 AM on the fourth Thursday of each month for fellowship and study. All women are invited to attend.



Ronald McDonald House

Aluminum tabs from beverage containers are collected and donated to the *Ronald McDonald House* in Ann Arbor to help support families who stay there while their children are hospitalized at the Children's Hospital.

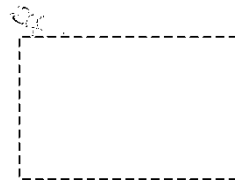


Opportunities To Serve

Session Teams...All members are invited to serve as "at-large" members on our Session Teams: Spiritual Growth, Community Outreach, Member Care, Property and Budget & Finance. The church office can put you in contact with the team chairperson.



Soup Kitchen...Volunteers work at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on the second Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Contact Mary Ellen Zellers with any questions.



VG's Community Sharing Fund...VG's receipts are collected and we receive a percentage of these receipts to use to help fund mission projects.



Youth Group (The "Believers") is for teens in grades 7 through 12. They meet at 6:00 PM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, study and mission projects. Contact Sandy or Scott Tucker.

Please address questions to the contact person listed or call the church office at 659-5831