



Riverlawn Presbyterian Church
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What's So Important about Lent Anyway?

Lent (which always begins 47 days before Easter Sunday) begins on February 22. Why do the dates vary so widely from year to year? Because Easter Sunday can fall any time from March 22 to April 25. Here's the reason: Jesus died on Passover, which was observed on the first full moon following the spring equinox. Easter Sunday is thus the first Sunday after that full moon. And Lent counts backwards from Easter to include 40 days plus Sundays.

Why 40 days? Because Jesus fasted 40 days in the desert; the Hebrews wandered for 40 years in the wilderness; the world was flooded for 40 days in the time of Noah ... *Each was a period of preparation for what was to follow.* This is why early Christians began setting aside time before Easter to prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection.

These are meant to be days of solemnity and reflection, so many fast from something during Lent. Some give up sweets; others restrict their use of technology (TV, Facebook, etc). Sundays are typically excluded from fasting, since they are celebrations of the risen Christ.

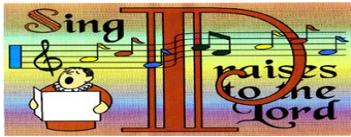
Others, when they "give something up," they also "take something on" – such as committing to intercessory prayer for a variety of people and places, or taking on acts of service, justice, and love that bear witness to their faith in Christ each week throughout Lent. There are countless ways that we, as Christians, can deny ourselves and embody sacrifice, as we remember and reflect upon the One who modeled the way for us – Who made the greatest of sacrifices.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, during which many churches mark believers with ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday palm leaves. As a time that speaks of our mortality and our need of the Savior, we invite you, and encourage you to invite others, to join us for our *Ash Wednesday Service* on Feb. 22 at 6:30pm.

Why is Lent relevant for the Christian, whatever their church background may be? Here are a few key reasons: 1. *We need to live in community with the larger body of Christ.* 2. *We cannot fully appreciate Jesus' resurrection unless we have experienced some of His suffering.* 3. *Our souls need a period each year for intentional spiritual introspection and contemplation.* John Stott, the great pastor and scholar, set aside an hour a day, a day a week, and a week a year to be alone with his Father. "Just as students need a spring break, so do souls."

As we enter the season of Lent, in joy and sorrow, we proclaim, remember, and respond to the atoning death of Christ. This is a time of preparation – recognizing our need for mercy and forgiveness, which is offered to us in Christ through His all-sufficient sacrifice. We invite you to join us on this journey to the Cross, and ultimately, the Empty Tomb!

Pastor Chris
Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS FEBRUARY 2023

Greetings to all as February begins. I am looking forward to the music that is planned for the month. Two Sundays of February (12th & 19th) we will have guest musicians. Aaron Sowards will be playing during worship on the 12th. He played for us in December and then recently joined me on a Wednesday evening program. On February 19th a string quintet will be accompanying the anthem as well as sharing two special selections. Jennifer Murphy will be our pianist that morning. The choir will also be singing anthems on the other Sundays with one of their favorites this coming week...How Beautiful composed by Twila Paris.

Last month I shared some verses from Proverbs that we might consider following as the new year began. Proverbs emphasizes the importance of choosing to humbly listen to the voice of wisdom and to rely on God for the wisdom only found in Him. {Ironically, the man who wrote those words, Solomon, would stray from the paths of wisdom}.

Here's a few more quotes from that book: Rich and poor have this in common: the Lord is the Maker of them all. (Proverbs 22: 2) / Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life. (Proverbs 22: 4) / Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him. (Proverbs 30:5) / A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1) / Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crop. (Proverbs 3:9)

Have a great month; enjoy the upcoming special music at church and remember the wisdom we find in the book of Proverbs.

Pam

FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for Family Night on Wednesdays, starting with dinner at 5:30. Following dinner, there will be worship, music and activities for the children and youth, CORE discipleship group (**CORE group will NOT meet on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22**), and time for fellowship for the adults. **Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up before and after dinner.**

Currently, the **Riverlawn Youth Event Fund** depleted. If you would like to support this ministry through a donation, checks can be made payable to Riverlawn, specifying the fund on the memo line. Thank you!



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 12

This year, instead of having the traditional Souper Bowl luncheon after church on Super Bowl Sunday (February 12), we will be having **soup and sandwiches at Family Night on February 8 as a kickoff to Souper Bowl Sunday.**

We are asking our church family to bring in as many canned goods and nonperishable food items as you can! The food will be donated to the St. Albans Food Pantry and the money collected in the Soup pots on the 12th will go to support Jericho House. Food donations can be placed on the steps in the front of the sanctuary. Thank you! Following items are needed:

- Spaghetti;
- Pasta sauce;
- pancake mix (syrup would be good too)
- Hamburger Helper/Pasta sides;
- Baked and/or pork and beans
- Oats (packs or container);
- Canned pasta; boxed pasta (ie elbows, curled etc);
- Pudding.

Anything else welcome (but we have a lot of corn and green beans so not preferred.

BITTY BASKETBALL



Bitty Basketball is in full swing at Riverlawn with great participation from members of the church, offering their time, prayer and support, with witnesses of character and good sportsmanship. The last day is February 25, followed by the Awards Banquet on Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 pm in the gym. Congratulations to the players and thank you to the parents and to all those who helped in any way to make this a successful season. And especially thank you to Jim and Barb Recknagel for their continued dedication to this event and their commitment to the children and their families.

*Come to the games and enjoy this opportunity to support and get to know members of our local community.



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|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Megan Emmett | 20 JB Recknagel |
| 2 Elbert Taylor | 22 Missy Sneed |
| 4 Barbara Cavender | 23 Andrew Albert |
| 5 Ethan Marcum | Tesla Roberts |
| 9 Connie Campbell | 24 Ray Keller |
| 12 Pat Croghan | 26 Bob Sutphin |
| Becky Sutphin | 28 Barb Recknagel |
| 13 Paul O'Dell | |
| 16 Garrett Albert | |
| Trevor Barrie | |
| Louise Taylor | |



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| 5 | Susan Bryan |
| 12 | Kathy Barnes |
| 19 | Beckie Croghan |
| 26 | Susan Bryan |



You are invited to join us
Feb. 22 at 6:30pm.
for our Ash Wednesday Service

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Each Thursday, 7:00 pm.



CHURCH TELEPHONES

If you have been unable to contact the church by phone, please know that the phones have been down for several days and may continue to be for possibly another week as Frontier works on the problems. If you need to get in touch with the church, please contact Pastor Chris at rpc.pastorchrist@gmail.com., or me at rpc.beckie@gmail.com.

BUILDING SECURITY

After church lock-up for February is Mary Reppert
After hours security check for January:
05— Jamie Albert
12— Joe Lothes
19— Dennis Emmett
26— Larry Hyatt



2023 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons

Elders:

Kathy Barnes, Clerk of Session/Stewardship
304-444-3058; Kabgmrl@comcast.net

Joe Lothes, Missions
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

Pam Mullins, Family & Community
304-932-8463; pwwmandpsm@yahoo.com

*Paul Mullins, Building & Grounds/
Worship/Fellowship*
304-741-5914; nascarmemberswva@yahoo.com

Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture
304-444-2032; Polecat818@hotmail.com

Jamie Albert, Evangelism
681-340-1128; James.macd.albert@gmail.com

Ryan Lott (Dave and Joyce Ryan); Randy Dodrill; Patsy Novak (Pastor Chris); Brandi Wolfe (Donald and Sherry Marcum); Donald Miller (Frances Miller); Emma (Linda Monday); Michelle Flint (Casey Stribling); Katie Price (Joanna Keller); Linda Means; Betty McAdam; Nancy Young; Kayla and Brandon (Kathy Barnes); Lauren (Ron & Sherry Claar's granddaughter); Beverly Day (Wanda Smith); Paul Vaughn; David, Laura and Max Brubaker (Janet Brubaker); Joanna Keller; Sherri Drake (Ann Cox); Dave Ryan; Hannah Bowman; Roger McBride (Linda Wilson); JB Recknagel; Casey Stribling; Lakyn Kilbert; David Blevins (Donald & Sherry Marcum); Janet Young; Charlie Kellam; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.

Session will meet February 19 at 2:00pm via Zoom.

Deacons:

Jason Barnes—304-205-3315
jasonbarnes@yahoo.com

Ann Cox—304-389-2227
Lcox235@aol.com

Mary Reppert—304-419-2755
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

Mimi Albert—304-546-6547
Mimialbert72@yahoo.com

Deacons will meet Sunday, February 5, following the worship service.



Feb. 5	Jason Barnes Kathy Barnes	304-205-3315 304-444-3058
Feb. 12	Mary Reppert Sharon Herndon	304-419-2755 304-444-2032
Feb. 19	Mimi Albert Jamie Albert	304-546-6547 681-340-1128
Feb. 26	Paul Mullins Pam Mullins	304-741-5914 304-932-8463



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Deadline for submitting information for the March Newsletter is Thursday, February 23.

Riverlawn Strives To

*Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God
Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship
Demonstrate a life of love through service to others
Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need
Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love*