

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a season in which we prepare for the great festival of Easter by reflecting on our lives and our faith. Lent is forty days (and six Sundays) long, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Saturday. Our English word "Lent" is derived from the word "lengthen" because, in the Northern Hemisphere, Lent takes place as the days lengthen in the spring.

Easter Day is the most important day of the church year. The resurrection is the focal point of the Christian faith. Early Christians moved the day of worship from the Saturday Sabbath, the seventh day of the week and a day of rest, to the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection. So every Sunday is a "little Easter," a day of celebration never a day of fasting (not even during Lent).

Lent is a time to focus on the working of God within our lives, our community, and in the world in which we live. In doing so, we open ourselves to see the continuing renewal God seeks to bring to the created order (including humanity). We think about how the values of God's reign and how peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, and justice for all are being lived out in our lives and our communities. Are our choices and actions compatible with God's will? We reflect upon the promises made at our baptism (and its confirmation) and prepare to renew our covenant with God. We begin as we explore a variety of images of God's grace during the season of Lent, let's open our minds and hearts to God. Knowing and experiencing God's forgiveness allows us to honestly examine our lives. Without that assurance, the task could be overwhelming. It reminds us that the work of Lent is always undertaken in the knowledge that rebirth and resurrection (Easter) will come.

First
SUNDAY
LENT



March 1, 2008

*Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
3220 Laskey Road*

Toledo, Ohio 43613 419-475-4436

Email: fairgreen.church@sbcglobal.net Webpage: fairgreenchurch.org

10:00 AM



Welcome to worship with the Fairgreen family! The * symbol means, "All who are able, please stand."



Welcome
Visitors!

We are delighted to have you in our service this morning! Every Sunday, we are privileged to have people attending our church for the first time and we want you to feel welcome among us.

PLEASE SIGN THE FELLOWSHIP BOOK

found in the pews. We would like to know of your presence this morning.

PLEASE SHARE PRAYER JOYS/

CONCERNS on the Prayer card; they will be included in the Prayers of the People during the service, and added to the Prayer Chain.

A PERSONAL SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS AVAILABLE. WORSHIP BULLETINS FOR

CHILDREN are available. Contact an usher for assistance.

SUNDAY SERMON

TAPES are available by contacting the church office.

If you are in need of **Pastoral Care** or know someone who is, please call Rev. Pat at the church (419-475-4436) or on her cell (419-215-2939).

First Sunday in Lent

SILENT REFLECTION

O God who gives life, free us to trust your presence and work in our lives. Grant that we may die to all that imprisons us that something new and wondrous may come to life, in Christ. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign fellowship book found in pews.

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

CHORAL INTROIT "We Come to Worship" Geneva Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Hoover, Liturgist

In the rich Spirit of God, welcome.

Grace and Peace be yours.

Today we begin our Lenten journey into the heart of our faith.

We turn toward the cross and empty tomb and the mystery that from death comes new life.

And this is the journey for us, to die and rise with Christ.

Yes, to die to all that diminishes life, to rise to new abundance.

So may we die to fear and rise to love.

May we die to defensiveness and rise to new openness.

May we die to judgments and rise to compassion.

May we die to pettiness and rise to generosity.

May we die to punitiveness and rise to gentleness.

May we die to normalcy and rise to passion.

May we die to cynicism and rise to hope.

May we die to self-adsorption and rise to a sense of purpose.

Outreach Committee ~ We will be meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at 10:30am in the church lounge.

Lenten Soup Suppers ~ Join us on Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, 2009 at 6:30pm followed by Worship at 7:15pm. Please bring your own table service. Childcare for children four and younger will be provided. Here is a list of those providing the meals on Wednesdays:

March 4th—

Soups ~ Anna Jones, Mary Ellen Campbell, Jean Burtch, Bonnie Buehrer, Karen Herren

Salads ~ Louise Hughes, Woody Cole, Carol Yeager, Nancy MacPherson, **(1 salad still needed)**

March 11th—

Soups ~ Marilyn McAfee, Christine Roebuck, Mary Ellen Campbell, Woody Cole, Carol Yeager

Salads ~ Louise Hughes, Agnes McKinstry **(3 salads still needed)**

March 18th—

Soups ~ Rev. Pat, Connie Winslow, Kay Amendola, Toby Eichenauer, Woody Cole

Salads ~ Gayle Bell, Pat Gibson, Charlene Ravenscraft, Bev King, Gardy Bandfield

March 25th—

Soups ~ Marji Heaton, Woody Cole, Marilyn McAfee **(2 soups still needed)**

Salads ~ Joyce Koback, Louise Hughes, Dick Schroeder, Mary Ellen Campbell **(1 salad still needed)**

April 1st—

Soups ~ Rev. Pat, Barb Roadruck, Carol Yeager **(2 soups still needed)**

Salads ~ Louise Hughes **(4 salads still needed)**

Maundy Thursday, April 9th— **Soups** ~ Woody Cole, Rev. Pat **(3 soups still needed)**

Salads ~ Louise Hughes **(4 salads still needed)**

Please call Woody Cole if you can fill any of the above needs at 419-833-1394.

Daylight Savings Time ~ Just a reminder to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 7th before retiring.

Family Promise is holding a fundraising luncheon at The Pinnacle on Sunday, March 15, 2009 from 1 – 4 p.m. Mark your calendar now and stay tuned for more information!

SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:30-12:15AM

FOR ADULTS:

Bible Study.....In Lounge
Faith Sharing Class.....In Library

FOR CHILDREN:

Nursery Room (birth – 3 yrs. old) available from 9:45-12:15pm.....Rm.105
Beginners (3, 4, 5 yrs.old and 1st grade).....Rm.104
Grades 2-5Room behind the front of the sanctuary
Junior High (Grades 6-8).....Junior High Room-downstairs
Senior High (Grades 9-12)..... Meet at the Sr. High Round table in the Commons

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship in the Commons.

Information for the Newsletter should be received by Sunday, April 19, 2008.

Visit **THE CARD TABLE** in the narthex to sign or request cards to remember members of the Fairgreen family. Are you in need of prayer? The **FAIRGREEN PRAYER CHAIN** is here for you. Call Leone Sattler at 419-474-1723 or Darlene in the church office at 419-475-4436 or indicate that you have a request for the Prayer Chain on your Prayer card.

Number who worshiped with us on February 22, 2009: 75

TODAY'S USHERS: Dan Yeager, Capt./ Derek Nordhoff, Amber Smith, Dylan Bell

TODAY'S GREETER: Joyce Koback

NEXT SUNDAY'S USHERS: Kay Amendola, Capt./ Ed Wolff, Betty Geniac, Sharon Durrant

NEXT SUNDAY'S GREETERS: Agnes McKinstry & Chris Roebuck

NEXT SUNDAY'S Liturgist: Gayle Bell

Special Announcements

MEMORIES of loved ones can be expressed ANYTIME with a memorial contribution to Fairgreen Presbyterian Church.

Scrip Cards ~ Just a reminder that we have script gift cards available at the Welcome Center on Sundays with Julie Murray and see Darlene in the church office Monday-Friday 8:30-2pm. When you purchase these gift cards our church benefits from it financially. Not only are you receiving the card to use it, but the church is receiving a percentage back from each gift card that is purchased. Plan ahead and look at the month to see what cards you will need in making your purchases, eating out, buying gas etc. Missions and the Food Pantry benefit by your taking the time to buy script cards. Let's all do our part.

May the life of Christ take root in us.

May it grow us into the people of God.

This is our prayer, now and always. Amen.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #391**

"Take My Life"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Pat

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. Pat

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

"The Gloria Patri" (#579)

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Pat

KID'S FOR CHRIST ~ The children that are in Preschool through second grade are dismissed to go with their teacher to their class which will be held in room 110.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Linda Hoover

FIRST READING

Psalm 25: 1-10

pg. 863(OT) in the pew Bible

ANTHEM

"Come and Remember"

Geneva Choir

SECOND READING

Genesis 9: 8-17

pg. 13(OT) in the pew Bible

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15 and/or

pg. 1552(NT) in the pew Bible

1 Peter 3:18-22

pg. 1890(NT) in the pew Bible

SERMON

**"He descended into Hell:
An Image of God's Grace"**

Rev. Pat Lawrence Shafer

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO GOD

***HYMN #2165**

"Cry of My Heart"

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD
OFFERING**

Linda Hoover

***DOXOLOGY**

ONE HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION
THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS**

**THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION**

When Jesus sat at the table and enjoyed communion with the tax collectors and sinners he proclaimed that God's care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God's table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the Covenant, you saved those on the ark through the flood and gave them your sign of Covenant, the rainbow. Through repentance and baptismal waters we too have been saved, and made signs of your New Covenant in Jesus Christ.

Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, your Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. Like Jesus, we too are tempted. Yet he showed us how to resist evil.

Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

Coming out of the wilderness, Jesus began proclaiming your good news, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

Bring your reign near to us in this meal, Mighty Spirit. Draw us together in the ark of your church, that we may be signs of your covenant in the world, Covenanting God, Resisting Christ, and Saving Spirit, One God in Three.

Amen.

**THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD
THE BLESSING OF THE CUP**

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of our Christ. Thank you for your eternal love, the Bread of Life, that sustains all creation. May you continue to love us in our faithful acts and by that love discourage us from our unfaithful acts, that we might rejoice as your servants to the world. Amen.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICATION**

Rev. Pat

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ~ #2260 "Let Us Be Bread"**

**Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord
Broken and shared, life for the world
Let us be wine, love freely poured
Let us be one in the Lord**

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Next Week ~ Second Sunday in Lent ~The Geneva Choir will sing; the sermon will be "Trust: An Image of God's Grace"

Texts: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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Calendar for the Week of March 2-8, 2008

- Monday, Mar. 2 ~**
 - Tuesday, Mar. 3 ~**
 - Wednesday, Mar. 4 ~**
 - Thursday, Mar. 5 ~**
 - Friday, Mar. 6 ~**
 - Sunday, Mar. 8 ~**
- Adult Volleyball 7-9pm in the Commons
Prayer of Discernment 6:30pm
Mega Meetings at 7pm in the lounge
Table set up for Lenten Suppers after 1:30pm
Outreach Committee Meeting 10:30am in the lounge
Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm followed by Worship
Staff Meeting 10:30am in the lounge
Choir practice 6:30pm
Food Pantry 10-12pm
Second Sunday in Lent and the Geneva Choir will sing
Preschool Open House from 1-3pm**