

JOY MISSION CHURCH Newsletter

Joy on mission...the hands and feet of God!



LENTEN CALENDAR

In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship services, we offer the following special Lenten worship services:

- ❖ Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den (5062 Augusta Rd. Lexington)
- ❖ Wednesday, March 9 Service of the Word at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den with meal to follow.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 16 Service of the Word at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den with light meal to follow.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 23 Service of the Word at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den with light meal to follow.
- ❖ Wednesday, March 30 Service of the Word at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den with light meal to follow.
- ❖ Wednesday, April 6 Service of the Word at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den with light meal to follow.
- ❖ Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday worship service at 11:00 a.m. at Thompson Funeral Home Chapel.
- ❖ Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den - NO MEAL, but the Lord's Supper will be served.
- ❖ Friday, April 15 Good Friday Tenebrae worship service at 6:30 p.m. at Tom's Den - NO MEAL.

We are NOT the mission. Our mission is the Great Commission:

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

This is why we exist- to: **Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus' name.**

JOY MISSION CHURCH

We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus' name through worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

PASTOR'S CORNER

The 3 R's of Lent

Too often in life, we are bombarded by things we must get done. We all have many important obligations and responsibilities. Sometimes we feel that we barely have time to catch our breath before moving on to the next commitment. And then there are the storms of change that blow us off course.

Lent is a season to slow down. This six-week journey begins with Ash Wednesday (on March 2 this year) and ends with Holy Saturday (on April 16).

Each Wednesday evening in Lent, with the exception of Holy Week, we will carve out time in our hectic schedules for worship and fellowship. The intent of this time is to help us all slow down and refocus on Christ.

Lent is a gift – a respite in the busyness and chaos of life. It is a **time to REFLECT** upon our lives and experiences; **to REPENT**, or turn away from our sinful thoughts, words, and **to REORIENT** our lives, purpose and passion toward Jesus and His will for us. King David's solemn plea becomes our own:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

And to help with us refocus on Christ, the Church practices **three Lenten disciplines: ALMSGIVING, FASTING, and PRAYING.**

Almsgiving is the discipline of denying ourselves of material or financial blessings so we can bless others who are in need. This discipline can take the form giving a little extra money to the Church, donating non-perishable food through Mission Lexington or participating in our Ministry of the Month.

Fasting is denying ourselves by abstaining from anything that distracts us from Christ and His mission. Fasting can mean giving up sweets, giving up on television or electronics, or giving up negative or discouraging thoughts and comments – anything that has become a distraction. The purpose of fasting is to free up more time, space and energy for Jesus.

Praying is, of course, spending time with our Lord – taking our hopes, needs and requests to Him, and also *listening* to Him. To pray, we must deny ourselves the pleasure of our own company and set apart time to commune and converse with God. The purpose of the discipline of prayer is to train our hearts to turn to Him with every need or praise and to train our ears to listen to Him diligently – not just during Lent, but also in the midst of the storms and stresses of everyday life.

I encourage us all to practice the disciplines of ALMSGIVING, FASTING, and PRAYING this Lent. Take time to set apart each week, each day, to slow down. **REFLECT, REPENT and REORIENT** our lives to Christ.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, help us this Lenten season to refocus our attention, our hearts, and our hopes on you, that we may be strengthened and empowered to love and to live for you alone. We ask this to your glory and in your holy name. Amen.

In the love of Christ,
Pastor Paulette



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