Dear Members and Friends of New Bedford Church,

As we enter into March we enter into the Lenten Season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. For the past few years we have had an Ash Wednesday service. This has become one of the most meaningful services of the year as we remember the need for repentance and surrender to our Lord Jesus. (Yes, we do use ashes at this service). Lent begins 40 days before Easter not counting Sundays (historically Sundays were not part of Lent because Sundays are a day of celebrating the resurrecting of our Lord). The word "Lent" comes from the ancient Anglos Saxon word "lencten" which means "Spring."

Lent is 40 days in remembrance of the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness immediately after His baptism. Historically Ash Wednesday services and the different practices of Lent were more common in the Catholic, Anglican and the Lutheran traditions than the Presbyterian and Baptist and the Independent church traditions.

John Calvin, one of the primary "founders" of the Reformed (Presbyterian) church, rejected the Catholic practices of Lent because they are not Biblical. There is also the great danger of linking the practices of Lent with a "work doctrine" of salvation. We must be very clear that "giving up something" or "doing something special" during Lent does not bring us salvation. We are saved by grace and grace alone!

With that said I believe there is great value in the observance of Lent. Although it is not Biblical it is certainly not anti-Biblical (again unless it is seen as earning our way into heaven). On the contrary the lessons and the disciplines of Lent can be a powerful tool for growing in our faith walk. The primary emphasis during Lent is repentance. The first step in preparing for the Cross of Jesus and the Resurrection of Jesus is to see the need for a Savior. It is necessary to see the great cost of the cross and the necessity of the cross to bring us into an intimate relationship with our Lord. So often we forget the cost. So often we take the Good Friday and the Easter story for granted. So many people today fail to celebrate the wonder of God taking the punishment <u>that we deserve</u> upon Himself in an unbelievably painful way. They than fail to see the amazement and the power of the resurrection. It's just another holiday that includes a lot of candy and a bunny.

Lent is a time of reflection. Many "give up" something that they value or enjoy for Lent. This could be a food or an activity (if you give up T.V. this is very costly if you are a "March Madness" fan). This is to remind us, in a small way, of the cost of the cross. Others add a special spiritual discipline during Lent. This could include extra time reading the Bible (if you combine the Gospels of Mark and Luke there are 40 chapters) Others use special Lenten Devotionals. Others serve the church or the community in special ways during Lent.

All these activities are a time to focus on the Lord. All the activities are a time to remember the need for repentance and the need for a Savior. All of them help us in our walk with the Lord. Again, please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on March 7th at 7:00

In Christ,
Doug

SESSION NOTES

- Received and accepted report from the Auditors. No exceptions were reported in any of the church accounts
- Approved up to $2000.00 to purchase additional insulation to improve heat, prevent future pipe freezing and save fuel costs
- Receiving bids for bathroom modifications.
- Reported that EPICS (Experienced Service in Christ's Service) had a very successful start in February.
- New "Junior church ministries, JAM (grades K-3 and GOD SQUAD (grades 4-6) is going very well
- New Outdoor banners are being purchased.
- Approved special Lenten services
- "This is my Story" has completed additional "filming" and will be show during our Worship services.
- Organ was repaired. A new MIDI unit was installed
- Received an update on our Missionaries
- Approved Lenten special services
- Reviewed minutes from the Deacons.

****

THANK YOU'S TO…..

Chuck Bell for installing insulation over the ceiling of the entrance way, offices, hallway in the new section of the church and block walls in the old section. Thank you to Jim Emery and Tim Pogozelec for assisting Chuck.

Duane Boyles for his repair of a major leaking pipe (that had frozen and broke) in the nursery. This kept the flooding to a minimal.

To the members of the Evangelism Committee for hosting the Congregational Meeting Breakfast in January.

Steve and Donna Fox for repairing the plastic around the quilts hanging on the walls and adding additional frame work.

Steve Fox for building the beautiful stand for the Bible on the Communion Table.

Birthdays in March

3/03 – Gene Bicehouse
3/03 – Steve Fox
3/04 – Sally Withers
3/05 – Emily Withers
3/08 – Sue Bluedorn
3/12 – Mira Fulkman
3/13 – Doug Houk
3/15 – Larry Bluedorn
3/16 – Dakota Boyer
3/17 – James Allison
3/17 – Jake Emery
3/17 – Sandy Saulpaugh
3/19 – Dan Dieter
3/20 – Ed Rudzik
3/22 – Beth Kendall
3/24 – Jennifer Saulpaugh
3/25 – John Book
3/25 – Jackie Hall
3/26 – Jamie Phillips
3/27 – Robert Bretz
3/27 – Ryan Morse
3/29 – Judy Stuhlmann
3/30 – Helen Bicehouse

Birthdays in April

4/01 – Clay Fulkman
4/02 – Jane Clingan
4/04 – Evan Lambert
4/04 – Marcie Lambert
4/04 – Barbara Pence
4/05 – Peggy Hilliard
4/06 – Bill Harshbarger
4/07 – Andy Hostetler
4/08 – Jodi Allison
4/08 – Jamie McCarthy
4/09 – David Magee
4/13 – Leo Krisuk
4/19 – David Carr
4/19 – Ty Phillips
4/22 – Collin Duffy
4/22 – Donna Fox
4/23 – Bonnie Glogowski
4/26 – Patty Wade
4/27 – Ed Rudzik
4/28 – Madeline Whiting
4/29 – Sabrina DeVite



Greeters in March

March 3rd - Brandon & Ethan Harris

March 10th - Grant & Dylan Dieter

March 17th - Madison Liddell

March 24th - Dan & Gisela Dieter

March 31st - John & Sharon Book

Head Usher for March - Diane Bell



Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Nancy Templeton----------Overlook Medical Clinic
Dot Jones----------Avalon Nursing Home
Gladys Barnhart----------Home
Jo Ruby----------Home
Pearl Reed----------Overlook Nursing Home
Art Spence----------Home
Lavon Rogers----------John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence----------Shenango Home

****



We extend our deepest sympathy to Judy Stuhlmann and her family over the loss of her sister, Susan Sniezek. Susan passed away this past week from cancer. Her funeral service is Saturday, March 2nd at John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Inc., 601 Weldon Street, Latrobe, PA.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

****

The April Redeeming Times Newsletter Deadline is Monday, March 25th. All articles and/or announcements can be left on my desk or sent to addietwinstrips@gmail.com or newbedfordchurch@verizon.net . Thank You – Addie

****

My dear friends and family – We wanted to extend our appreciation for all the visits, cards and delicious food. Thank you for all your prayers and caring thoughts during my recent recovery. We cannot thank you enough.

All Our Love – Debbie & Tim Pogozelec



****

Local Missions Donation Opportunity

The Mission Committee is collecting small personal hygiene items and small non-perishable food items to put in "care packs" to hand out to the homeless. There will be a box located in the narthex for all donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

****

2019 Annual Couples Retreat

March 8-9 at The Hampton Inn, West Middlesex

Please see Pastor Doug for more information or to register!

Deadline to register for this retreat is this Sunday, March 3rd!!



March Circle Meetings

Deborah – Tuesday 3/12 at 9:30A.M.

Rebecca – Saturday 3/16 at 9:00A.M. at Bedford Trails Restaurant

Ruth – Monday 3/18 at 9:00A.M.

Lydia – Tuesday 3/19 at 1:00P.M.

Elizabeth – Thursday 3/21 at 6:30P.M.

Important Dates in 2019

March 9th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
April 5-6 – Women's Retreat *please see info at bottom of this page*
May 18th – WA Meeting at 1:00PM
September 2019 – Ladies 'Love & Laughter' Breakfast – date TBA
September 14th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
November 2nd – BAZAAR
November 9th – WA Meeting at 9:00AM
November 24th – Thank Offering Service
December 2019 – Women's Christmas Dinner – date TBA

Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Retreat!

When: April 5-6, Friday evening 6:30pm to Saturday 4:30pm

Where: The Castle – Life Ministries in Franklin, PA

Cost: Rates range from $55 to $85, depending on the room occupancy you select. Details are below. If you have room questions, please see a member of the Retreat Lodging Committee: Shirley Janoski, Margie Matthews or Debbie Pogozelec. Total cost includes three delicious meals, fun activities, and comfortable lodging.

Registration: Registration begins Sunday, February 24 and ends Sunday, March 3. There will be opportunities to register before and after the early and late church services. Final Registration Date is March 3.

Please prayerfully consider attending this wonderful event. It is a retreat where women slow down and enjoy time with other women and God. It's an in-depth Bible study, an unforgettable workshop experience, and lots of fun, too! This is an open invitation for ALL WOMEN to draw closer together, to be still in God's presence, and to relax in His love! We hope you will join us!

Sincerely - The Elizabeth Circle

Library News by Amy Geisinger

General Donations:

- **Thank you for all the book donations to the church library! Since everyone has been so generous recently, we are requesting that you *DO NOT donate any more materials to the church library at this time*. Terri Emery and I need time to process all the current materials in the library and weed through the collection in order to make room for all the "new" items. Thank you for your understanding and patience.**

Recent memorial donations:

- **In Memory of Jeffrey Jones:**
  - ***Jon Courson's Application Commentary – Volumes 1-3***
- **In Memory of Marian V. Sizer; Cindy Bell's Mother:**
  - **A mix of children's books and devotional books**

Added Collection:

- **A new Parenting Collection section will be added to the church library in the next few weeks. Books will have a special designation sticker on the spine for easy identification. Thank you to Marty Marshall for all the materials for this collection.**

Reminders:

- **When checking out items from the church library, please fill out the circulation card in the pocket in the back of the book. Please list the date you take the book (month/day/year) and your full name (first & last). Place the completed circulation card in the wooden box on the shelf.**
- **Please do not take books off the rolling cart as they are not processed yet and have no circulation card.**

****

Braveheart Testimonial Dinner

Vision Ministries of New Castle is hosting it's 3rd annual Braveheart Testimonial Dinner on April 7, 2019 at the New Englander Banquet Center. This dinner honors and recognizes courageous individuals who, with the grace of God, have battled and prevailed over addiction.

If you, individually or as a group, would like to purchase or donate tickets, donate a Chinese Auction gift/basket, lottery ticket for a lottery tree or a monetary donation, see, text or call Beth Kendall 724-714-7642 or Shawn Kendall 724-651-7711. Or if you know someone who's testimony may be beneficial to others, please contact the persons listed on the flyer that's on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Your support, whether through donations, help or most importantly prayer is greatly appreciated and vital in helping Vision Ministries help those struggling with addiction and to help the city of New Castle become a "recovery city", one of the goals of Vision Ministries.

Love & Prayers – Beth and Shawn Kendall



Ash Wednesday Worship Service – March 6th at 7pm.

Choir Song-Fest & Lenten Supper – Sunday, March 31st, Song-Fest will begin at 4pm with supper following.

Palm Sunday Worship Services – Sunday, April 14th at 8:30am and 10:40am.

Lenten Bible Study and Supper – Sunday, April 14th, Dinner will begin at 5pm with a Bible Study to follow.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service – April 18th at 7pm.

Good Friday Worship Service – April 19th at 7pm.

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 20th 10am – Noon.

Resurrection Morning Worship Services – April 21st at 8:30am and 10:40am. A light breakfast will be served in between worship services at 9:30am.



The Worship Committee will be hosting two Lenten Suppers. The first Lenten Supper will be on Sunday, March 31st, supper will follow the Choir Song-Fest that begins at 4pm. The second supper will be on Palm Sunday, April 14th, dinner will begin at 5pm with a Bible Study following. Look for more details in upcoming bulletins and in the next Newsletter.



The Evangelism Committee will be hosting the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20th from 10am until Noon. There will be many children from the community attending this event which is why they are in need of your help with candy donations! Please consider donating bags of individually wrapped candy to fit in the plastic eggs. There will be a box in the Narthex for candy donations. The last day to bring in candy will be April 14th. The Evangelism Committee thanks you in advance for your help with this community event!



The Deacons will once again be taking orders for Easter Tulips this year. We invite you to honor or remember a loved one, these will be printed and placed in the bulletins on Easter Sunday. The cost is $9.00 each. Later this month we will have Easter Tulip cards in your bulletins to place your order.

Awana Clubs-----Wednesdays
Ages 2 - Grades 6 5:00-7:00

Dawn Harris, Awana Commander
dawnhnbpc@aol.com 330-881-8110

March 6th – Regular Club Night
March 13th – Double, Double Points Night
March 20th – Regular Club Night
March 27th – Hats Off to your Leaders and Director Night
Show some love for your Leaders, Coach Lee, Miss Shirley (Grades K-2), Erika & Julie (Puggles), Miss Sheila (Cubbies) with a handmade card or note **AND wear your favorite hat!!**

Looking Ahead……April 3rd 5:00-7:00 4th Annual AWARDS NIGHT
EVERYONE is invited to join us in recognizing this year's Awana Clubbers. We are excited about their accomplishments and this will be a special ending to our year. A dinner will be served after the Awards Ceremony. If you are able, please bring a side dish or salad to share *Please sign up in the Vestibule so we can plan accordingly.* Thank you.

Awana CAN make a difference for the CITY RESCUE MISSION

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of food for the City Rescue Mission!

Needed Items:

Canned Soup	Cereal	Mac N Cheese	Syrup
Boxed Rice	Pancake Mix	Crackers	Jelly

Any of the above items can be donated at any time. However, there is a 'Most Wanted Item of the Month'.

MOST WANTED ITEM FOR MARCH – CANNED FRUIT

Thank you for helping to provide this ministry with food for families in need.

Donation Opportunity----On Wednesday, March 27th the AWANA Clubbers will have the opportunity to go shopping in our 'church' marketplace. They get to buy items with the points they earned. They can earn points each week for; attendance, bringing a Bible, bringing their Handbook, completing sections, wearing uniform, and attending church. Many kids have earned a lot of points and they look forward to shopping with them at the end of Awana. *If you would be able to donate items for the marketplace please leave them in the box in the vestibule by* ***Sunday, March 24th***. Many great items could be purchased from a dollar store. If you have any questions please let me know. Thanks for your help in rewarding the kids for their commitment in Awana and earning points.



LOOKING AHEAD-SAVE THE DATES…..VBS will be June 9-13, 2019

BOWLING PARTY



Who? All kids in Age 2 - Grade 6
(A parent/guardian needs to accompany Preschool children)

When? Saturday, March 16, 2019 12:30-2:30 PM
Church Van leaves the church at 12:00 and returns approx. 3:15

Where? Ten Pin Alley 3825 E State St. Hermitage, PA 16148

Cost? $8.00 Church/Awana Kids-----$9.00 all other Kids
Includes bowling, shoe rental, pizza, chips, pop, dessert

Come and Have some Fun!!!!!!

Permission Slips are in the vestibule or by Dawn's office.

Permission Slips need to be returned by Wednesday, March 13th



PUPPET PRACTICES & PERFORMANCES

March 10th – 5:30-6:15
March 17th – 5:30-6:15

April 7th – 5:30-6:15
April 14th – 3:30-4:00

March 27th – Puppets Perform for Awana 5:00
April 20th - Puppet Performance for the Easter Egg Hunt

J.A.M. Leader Schedule (Grades K-3)
March 3 – Dawn Harris
10 – Erika Taylor
17 – Dawn Harris
24 – Jane Eppinger
God Squad (Grades 4+) will meet March 10 & 24

For any questions about the above happenings contact Dawn Harris
Call/Text: 330-881-8110 Email: Dawnhnbpc@aol.com

NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143
Phone: 724-964-8055



Redeeming Times Newsletter
MARCH 2019

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service