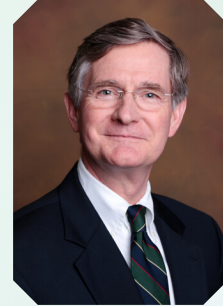


The Messenger

MOUNTAIN BROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LANT'S LINES

A Message from our Pastor



This month I'll depart from my normal practice of a single focus and mention a number of things that are happening in the life of the church during Lent.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday this last week. In the morning we provided "drive-through ashes" for mothers in the car-pool line at the church's preschool and also ashes for the teachers. On Wednesday night we had a special service in the sanctuary, including the imposition of ashes for those who wanted to participate. During Lent Spencer Bissell and I are teaching a confirmation class to five young persons in the congregation. We hope to present them to the congregation on Easter morning as our newest active members in the church. Holy Week begins on April 5 with festival worship on Palm/Passion Sunday; instrumental musicians will complement our own choir and organ in what is always an inspiring service. Our Lenten Lunch will follow worship on Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. we will have our service of Tenebrae (darkening) and Holy Communion. That service, in a sense, continues the next day at noon on Good Friday. The climax is Easter Sunday, when we will have our normal early, courtyard service at 9:00 a.m., followed by breakfast and an Easter egg hunt, and our main service at 11:00 a.m. Please put these on your calendar as you plan your Lenten observances.

Lenten devotional. I know I have mentioned many times that our Presbyterian seminaries are the "crown jewels" of our denomination. One of them, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has made available this year a series of Lenten devotional videos, in which current students interview their professors about "ways the season of Lent informs and inspires our Easter hope." You can subscribe to the series through the following internet link www.austinseminary.edu/lentsubscribe.

Wednesday night Lenten series. For Wednesday nights in Lent (with the exception of the first, which is Ash Wednesday), our adult study group will focus on national political issues. I made the point in a recent sermon that, while generally it seems impossible to discuss politics in a civil manner, surely in the church we should be able to do it and maintain our respect for one another.

I shared a video (ideas.ted.com/how-to-talk-about-politics-constructively/) with the study group, which suggests the following rules for having healthy discussions: (1) Don't try to change someone's mind. Your speaking should simply be to inform others of your thinking. You should listen to understand another person's thinking, not to anticipate your arguments against them. Reaching agreement is not the goal. (2) Don't pre-judge; listen with an open mind. (3) Show respect for others. Assume that they honestly are trying to achieve a positive result. (4) If a conversation becomes awkward or difficult, work through it. Don't crack a joke or change the subject or (unless you realize that you have lost control of your emotions) leave the room.

Another resource ("How to Talk Politics Without Letting Things Turn Ugly") suggests that we remain humble; while we may be well educated on a topic, we don't necessarily have all the answers. It is also recommended to establish as much common ground in the conversation as early as possible—often about shared values, goals, and emotions. Asking questions with the sincere desire to learn more about the other person's position is a very good way to show respect. If someone uses language that is unwittingly offensive or off-putting, do your best to overlook it, at least until a later time. Don't attack someone's personal beliefs, for their emotional apparatus will respond just as sharply as if you had attacked them physically.

I also value the advice given in the online article "How to Argue, Discuss, and Disagree . . . in a Jewish Way," by Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit (on the reformjudaism.org website): (1) Exercise humility; use "I believe" and "I feel" statements and don't presume to tell other people what they are thinking. (2) Honor the courage of persons who speak up with opinions that go against the majority. (3) Remember that everyone has a "spark of holiness" within them—the very image of God—even if we disagree with them. (4) Try to keep all arguments constructive—a mutual search for the right path. Think of God listening in on the discussion, and try to make the argument "for the sake of heaven."

The topics that our study group identified for further discussion include climate change, taxes, education, abortion, immigration, LGBTQ+, War in Afghanistan, impeachment, and healthcare. Of those, the group wanted to take up climate change, immigration, and LGBTQ+ first; so we'll take them in that order, beginning on March 4. I'll attempt to moderate the discussion and will do my best not to inject my own opinions.

In the year 197 CE, Tertullian, a famous Christian theologian and church leader from North Africa, wrote a letter (Apologeticus, 50 chapters long) to the Roman authorities in defense of his fellow-Christians. In describing the Christian community, he wrote, "It is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. 'See,' they say, 'how [these Christians] love one another.'" I hope that anyone listening in on our political conversations in the church will be impressed with how we are able to share opinions with each other, while at the same time sharing our love for one another. Let's see how it goes!

Have a holy and blessed Lent.

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TROOP #320



STAFF

PASTOR

REV. LANT B. DAVIS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DEWIN TIBBS

ORGANIST

GARY SMOKE

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SPENCER BISSELL

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MELISSA HALL

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

BERNIE GREGSON

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL

MARY LIZ INGRAM

BOY SCOUT TROOP 320

SCOUTMASTER: FRANK TYNES

CUB SCOUT PACK 320

CUBMASTER: JUSTIN KELLY

MBPC Calendar, Holidays in United States

Mar 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>9:30am - Sunday</div> <div>10:15am - Chancel</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Super Tuesday</div> <div>1pm - Worship Staff</div> <div>6:30pm - Christian</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5pm - Hand Bells</div> <div>6pm - Dinner &</div> <div>6:45pm - Adults'</div> <div>6:45pm - Children's</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Van Reserved -</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Van Reserved -</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Daylight Saving</div> <div>Van Reserved -</div> <div>9:30am - Sunday</div> <div>10:15am - Chancel</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation</div> <div>5pm - Cub Scout</div> <div>5pm - Session</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - Pack #320</div>	<div>10</div> <div>1pm - Worship Staff</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5pm - Hand Bells</div> <div>6pm - Dinner &</div> <div>6:45pm - Adults'</div> <div>6:45pm - Children's</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div>	<div>13</div> <div>3pm - Cook/Rosenau</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - Wedding</div> <div>4pm - Cook/Rosenau</div>
<div>15</div> <div>9:30am - Sunday</div> <div>10:15am - Chancel</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6pm - Tiger Den</div> <div>7pm - Tiger Den</div>	<div>17</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day</div> <div>9:30am - Prayer</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>1pm - Worship Staff</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5pm - Hand Bells</div> <div>6pm - Dinner &</div> <div>6:45pm - Adults'</div> <div>6:45pm - Children's</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div>9:30am - Sunday</div> <div>10:15am - Chancel</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>1pm - Worship Staff</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5pm - Hand Bells ??</div> <div>7:30pm - Chancel</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10am - Bible Study</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:30am - Sunday</div> <div>10:15am - Chancel</div> <div>11am - Worship</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>1pm - Worship Staff</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>



Clean Out Your Attic. Change Someone's Life.

Presbyterian Home for Children
Talladega, AL Thrift Store
Drop Off Point for Donations

Shades Valley Presbyterian Church
2305 Montevallo Road, Birmingham, AL

*1st Saturday of each month
from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm*



Sunday, March 8



Easter Lilies

If you would like to place an Easter Lily in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of loved ones on Easter Sunday, April 12, please fill in the information listed below or phone the church office at 967-5037 *by Sunday, March 29*. The cost will be \$12.00 each. Please indicate on your check that it is for *Easter Lilies*.

Number of Plants _____

☐ I will be taking the plant(s) home.

☐ I wish to give plant(s) to New Beacon Hospice.

In memory of OR In honor of : _____
(Circle one)

In memory of OR In honor of : _____
(Circle one)

In memory of OR In honor of : _____
(Circle one)

SCOUT SUNDAY Sunday, February 9





Mardi Gras Celebration

February 23, 2020



Missions Committee Update



MAGIC CITY HARVEST “FIRST SUNDAY” FOOD DRIVE

The **MBPC Mission and Outreach Committee** invites the congregation to participate in a “First Sunday” monthly food drive to benefit **Magic City Harvest**. Please bring the following item to the collection area outside the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month.

First Sunday of Each Month

January - 5 oz. cans of WATER-PACKED TUNA

February - 15 oz. cans of FRUIT

March - 15 oz. cans of VEGETABLES (corn, beans or black beans)

April - 12 oz. SPAGHETTI NOODLES

May - Box of JELL-O or INSTANT PUDDING

June - 12 oz. box of CEREAL

July - 12 oz. box of MACARONI AND CHEESE

August - Bag of RICE

September - Bag of DRIED BEANS

October - 10 oz. cans of SOUP

November - Box of CORNBREAD or BISCUIT MIX

December - 18 oz. jar of PEANUT BUTTER



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Illustrated Ministry LLC

serving
you
ministries

Trying to figure out what to do with all of those hotel shampoos and soaps you’ve been collecting? Bring them to the collection basket in the narthex and they will be delivered to Serving You Ministries, our mission partner, to be distributed to those in need at their Merchant Market.

Welcome & Outreach Committee



COMING SOON

NEW AND UPDATED NAMETAGS FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

In recent conversations with new members and frequent guests, it has been mentioned several times that they would love to know the names of the people here at MBPC. We all know how difficult it is when you meet several people all at once to remember all the names of all those people the next time you see them! So, let's make it a little easier on them, and wear nametags.

The Welcome Committee is working on getting new nametags made, and have a plan to make it easy on our members to wear them and to hand them back at the end of worship service. We know you all know each other, but let's make this small effort to help our new members and visitors get to know us.

MBPC Youth Update

Last month we talked about how the youth were learning the books of the bible. The youth have fully taken this challenge and have already had some of them complete it long before our “test day” of Easter Sunday. We encourage the congregation on Sundays to ask the children the books of the bible they know to help quiz them.

Along with all the other fun and exciting activities occurring our Confirmation class has been going strong. The five youth along with Lant Davis and Spencer Bissell are going through Big God, Big Questions trying to unravel the big questions we face as Christians. We look forward to presenting our confirmands to the congregation!

Mark Your Calanders!!

We are only 4 months away from one of our favorite events at Mountain Brook Presbyterian, Bibletimes on Brookwood! We will be sending out registration forms this month so be on the lookout for those and get ready for another fun experience!



MBPC Preschool



Donuts with Dad 2020





Troop 320 has had a very busy 2020. We began the year by honoring our newest Eagle Scouts, Jack Higgins and Mason Brint, at an Eagle Court of Honor January 5th. On January 26th we honored two more Eagles, Tommy Butrus and Parker Jones. In February, the troop had two more scouts working on their Eagle Projects. On February 14-17, Wilson Tynes built a walkway behind the church office. On February 17, Hagen Livingston pressure washed and repaired benches along with cleaning the war memorial plaques next to the church office. On February 9th, we joined the church for the Scout Sunday service. The Troop has had two campouts since the start of the new year. The first was the Pinhoti Trail backpacking campout where 13 scouts and 7 adults attended the 2-night campout. On February 21-23, 28 scouts and 14 adults attended the Vulcan District camporee where Troop 320 placed second. The Troop is looking forward to our next campout March 6-8 where we will go caving.

Historian-Librarian,

Denton Russell

