

THE SLATE

The Monthly Newsletter of
Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church
Cardiff, Maryland

March 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

First, let me remind everyone that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on that date. Also, since Punxsutawney Phil didn't cooperate this year, let me finally go ahead and welcome everyone to Spring; officially starting in March.



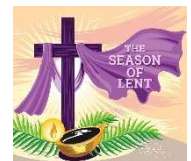
As we enter the Lenten season, we prepare our hearts for a time of anticipation, reflection, repentance and a so-called "Spring Cleaning for the Soul." Since Ash Wednesday falls on the same date as Clean Plate this year, we are planning the dispensing of ashes and celebrating the Lord's Supper at our monthly meal together.

On Ash Wednesday, hundreds of millions of Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in churches all over the world. Why ashes? Since Old Testament times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mortality. When ashes are placed on our foreheads we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." (See Genesis 3:19). It's a reminder that the world, that often seems so important to us at this moment, is passing and we need to give more thought to what comes at the end of our earthly life, which is: eternal life.



Ashes are also a sign of our need for repentance and a heartfelt acknowledgment that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. To many in the modern world, the very concept of sin seems old-fashioned. Yet, sin is part of our human nature, brokenness is our human condition, and we NEED Jesus. We need to repent and trust the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will show up for us again and again.

Of course, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season we call Lent. The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for springtime. Think of it as a form of spring cleaning for the soul. In the early years of Christianity, it was confined to a few days before Easter. But by the fourth century it was extended to forty days before Easter, a period associated with the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert and was tempted in the wilderness, just after his baptism (Matthew 4:1-11). However, "Forty days before Easter" may be somewhat misleading. We don't count Sundays among the forty days, so the period of Lent, lasting from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, actually covers 46 days. Whether 40 days or 46 days, in the great scope of things Lent is a momentary pause to rethink the fundamental purpose of our lives. But it can also be the occasion of a momentous transformation; a first step on the path, at the crossroads, of becoming the people God has called us to be. Let us all take the time to rethink, reflect, and maybe even transform through this season of anticipation. I'll see you at the crossroads of this journey.



Pastor Carroll



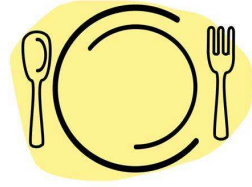
Slate Ridge Worship Services

Worship Services are live-streamed via YouTube (The channel is: @slateridgechurch1239). Fellowship time, prior to the service, begins at 10:30am. The service begins at 11:00am and includes a Children’s Message. Teachers are available to lead “Kids Church.” The service is posted weekly to the www.SlateRidgeChurch.org website and Slate Ridge’s Facebook page.

Greeter/Usher for March is Pat Kefauver.

Closers for March

- Mar 2 - Cathy Panos
- Mar 9 - Steve Hess
- Mar 16 - Dave Stewart
- Mar 23 - Brian Amos
- Mar 30 - Bill Scarborough



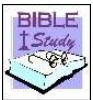
Clean Plate - March 5
5-7pm.
Ash Wednesday Service
6pm

Calendar

- Ash Wednesday is March 5. At approximately 6pm, (while Clean Plate will continue to serve), a short service of Communion will be celebrated. Ashes can be dispensed.
- The Session will meet Wednesday, March 19 at 7pm.
- Celebration of the Life of Nelson Lewis, April 5, at 2:00pm, here at Slate Ridge.

Deacons News

- John and Phyllis Fenwick are the Deacons’ “card-persons” this month. Reach out to a Deacon if you think of someone who might like a card from us and might need a reminder of God’s love for them.
- If a member of our church family, or of the local community may need a meal or two (because of hospitalization and recovery following surgery, etc.), the Deacons’ Contact person for meal support is Janet Nicholson. Janet Nicholson’s contact info: 410-937-7753.



Bible Study. “The Chosen” Each Thursday we continue to watch one episode of “The Chosen” and then discuss what we have learned. Time is 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring your friends.

Per Capita 2025. The cost of Per Capita remains at \$38.00 per member which goes to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The Session Finance Committee elects to pay the Per Capita on all our active members. We thank all who contribute their portion.

Prayer Chain. Would you like to join our prayer chain to pray for the needs of your church family? If you would like to be added - or if you have urgent prayer needs yourself - please contact Linda in the Church Office. Linda will initiate the prayer chain with our prayer partners.

North Harford Dance. Hyde Hall is used on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Ad-Hoc Committee Forming for 275th Anniversary Planning

The first meeting to begin planning the 275th Anniversary Celebration of the Slate Ridge Church is March 16 after worship. The Celebration is projected to be in October/our Homecoming service, and obviously, more details will follow. We expect that some of you outside our local area may want to save the date, and/or may want to participate in some back-and-forth with Committee Members to share remembrances.

Anniversary Book Update.

The last historical update was published during the time of the 250th anniversary. Is there anyone who would like to take on this project? Again, this might provide a way for some of our (not-local) members to participate in conversations or photos.

Praying for

- Our country; those affected by the plane crashes, wildfires, hurricanes, man-made disasters.
- Mary Gerlach’s sister, Jo Hoffman, 98 years of age, is receiving hospice care at Stella Maris.
- Pamela (Porch) Tarbert’s home in New Park burned. Prayers for Pam and family.
- Terri & Dave’s friend, Steve - slow recovery from July motorcycle accident.
- Mary Gerlach is recovering from a fall that resulted in a broken sternum.
- Janet Whiteford, recovering from serious illness, is at home.
- Kevin Ross, 32-year old man, heart attack.
- Terri Robinson’s sister-in-law, Tracy Knox, is on the lung transplant list.
- Pam Birely Moore’s friend, Mike Bastendorf, needs a liver transplant.
- Bill’s friend, Opher and family, prayers for safety and protection.
- A Joy! Cindy Seibel received her last infusion.
- Sandy Scarborough, constant pain.
- Mark, Alzheimer’s; Danielle, unknown issue; Shelby, Crohn’s; Anna Deaver, coma, Sterling Care. Sheryl Shubert, stage 2 breast cancer; Jen, cancer; Natalie, cancer; Scott Shubert, thyroid cancer; Louise Geczy, breast cancer; Davy Jones, chemo treatments; Sonya, issues after breast cancer surgery; Brian’s friend, Don Ayres, lung cancer; Danielle-1st yr med student, breast cancer.



With sympathy and prayers

- Prayers Joyce (Norman) Faith and family on the passing of her husband John.
- Prayers for Sandra (Byrd) Johnson and family on the passing of her husband John.
- Prayers for Janice, Buzzy, and all who continue to grieve the passing of Nelson Lewis.

Please pray for our military

- PFC Aidan Seibel, U.S. Army, Ft. Riley, KS
- Army Spec. Chandler Schmidt, Ft. Polk, LA



Flowers

Flowers were placed on the organ/piano to the glory of God and in memory of John Faith by John and Phyllis Fenwick.

Slate Ridge Church Income and Expenses (Jan 2025)		
	2025	2024
Income	\$ 7,864.36	\$ 11,527.00
Expense	<u>9,726.98</u>	<u>13,867.75</u>
Net Income	\$ - 1,862.62	\$ - 2,340.75



Birthdays

3	Liam Street	13	Jessica Myers
4	Patti Gibney	14	Lori Panos
8	Elle Barrett Sliger	16	Chris Panos
8	Brinkley Elise Sliger	19	Katie Johnson
8	Preston Hale	20	Jason Hess
9	Bill Koegel	21	Debbie Stewart
10	Isaac Vogel song	23	Curt Thompson
13	Scott Grimm	28	Sue Ross

Anniversaries

12 Jerry & Ann Booze

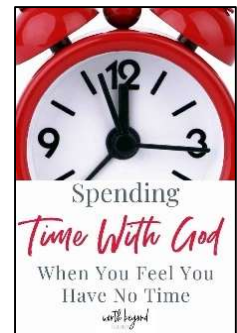


Time to Change the Clocks

If you are like me, you are anxiously awaiting the time when we can change our clocks back and gain that extra time in the daylight hours! It always makes me feel better...although the day isn't really any longer, it makes me feel like it is! When I realized how close we are to that day now, I also realized that meant that spring is just around the corner...the grass will soon be green, the flowers will start to peek out of the ground...even the birds will sing louder...the trees will start to grow their leaves and yes, we can put all those heavy coats, and hats and gloves away until winter again...but don't put them too far away, winter will be back before we know it! Time just continues to move along!

I also realized that some of our chores change...we will soon be mowing lawns, planting and watering flowers. We will be buzzing with cleanup activities from the winter. We do have more things to do in the spring than in the winter, at least I know I do. As my mind continued to wander, I got to thinking about my spiritual life as well! As I change the clocks, allowing me to rearrange my schedule of activities...it's a great time to evaluate the time I spend with God! I ask you to join me with making sure we have our priorities straight...are our first thoughts when we awake, with Him? Do we remember to thank Him for keeping us safe through the night and guiding us through the day? Do we make time to study His Word and remember to reach out to Him during the day? What about at night do we remember to kneel at our bedside before climbing in and thank Him for His help throughout the day, for keeping our family safe, for being the same God in the valley that He is on the mountaintop? Do we remember to pray for those around us; both the ones we know and those we may not know?

I would ask you to remember when you change your clocks and move those hands forward an hour on March 9th, let's all take time to make sure we also readjust, if necessary, our time spent with God...Because God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die so that we may have eternal life. Doesn't He deserve our best regardless of the time, morning time, daytime or nighttime...in daylight and in darkness?



Until His hour is nigh, I'll be praying for you...and I ask that you will be praying for me! Let's all pray that when God looks at our time with Him, He will be able to smile and say, "Well done My good and faithful servant!"

Until we are all on Heaven's side!

Prayerfully,



Souper Bowl of Caring

The generous congregation of Slate Ridge donated \$335 to the annual Souper Bowl campaign. Our donation, through our giving to Mason-Dixon Community Services, is able to help those in our local community. The Mission Committee appreciates your faithful giving.

Christian Ed Committee Easter Baskets

We're going to fill Easter baskets for Mason-Dixon Community Services again! Imagine the delight of a youngster receiving one of the 25 baskets that we will provide! Elder Luianne Potter will place notes of what we need on the table in the Gathering Room and you may pick up one, two or more notes, purchase the items, and return them to the church. Or, if you wish, you can make a cash donation that the committee will use to purchase items. The Christian Ed Committee thanks you in advance.



Thank You for Your Caring and Respect

A hearty **thank you** to all for your generous donations of new clothing and personal care items for the Veterans at Perry Point Veterans Hospital. This annual campaign is sponsored by the local American Legion and Legion Riders in Whiteford, MD and the congregations of local churches are pleased to fill the plastic tubs to the brim with clothing for the Vets.

Thank You from Mason-Dixon Community Services - Highland Center

"Thanks to your generous donation, we were able to provide much needed items to the community. Your donation has already made a huge impact."

Jane Skrzypiec, Highland Center Director

Thank You from Mason-Dixon Community Services - Delta

"Thank you for your continued support and donations to our organization. We couldn't do what we do in the community without you!"

Thank you,

Chloe Anderson, Mason-Dixon Community Services




Thank You. One small word that says so much.

Thank you all so much for the cards, the kind words, love and prayers that you sent to us. Nelson spoke highly of his church and the people in it. We miss him so much but we find peace knowing that he is with the Lord and he is not suffering anymore. We look forward to meeting you at Nelson's Celebration of Life.

Janice and Buz Johnson / Nelson's service is scheduled for April 5 at 2:00pm at Slate Ridge Church./



Shared by Pastor Carroll

Month of March 2025 						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	3 Dance	4 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	5 Ash Wed <u>Service 6pm</u> Clean Plate 5-7pm 	6 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	7 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	8 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
9 1 st Sunday of Lent Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	10 Dance	11 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	12	13 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	14 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	15 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
16 2 nd Sunday of Lent Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am Ad-Hoc Mtg Deacons Mtg	17 Dance 	18 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	19 Session 7:00pm	20 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	21 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	22 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
23 3 rd Sunday of Lent Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	24 Dance	25 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	26	27 Dance Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Pastor in the office 9:30-2:30 Bible Study ~ 10am	28 Office Open 9:00am ~ 3:00pm	29 AA Meeting, 4:30pm
30 4 th Sunday of Lent Pastor C. Fitzgerald Worship Service Children's Message & Kids Church 11:00am	31 Dance					

Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/slateridgechurch.
 1630 Chestnut Street Visit our Website: www.slateridgechurch
 Cardiff, MD 21160 410-451-5177
 Visit our YouTube channel to Livestream or visit later: www.youtube.com/slateridgechurch



Pinterest.com

“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” -- Matthew 6:34