** Baptist Tabernacle **

**Baptist Tabernacle**

**63 Division Street**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706**

**570 823-3083**

Website: www.wbtabernacle.com

**Tabernacle Tidings**

 **March 2021**

Message from Pastor Valerie: 

**IT’S A NEW SEASON**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

**There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot**

As the winter season is coming to an end and the spring season prepares to come upon us, we, the Church of Jesus Christ must make the necessary spiritual, mental and physical adjustments. In other words, we have to change the way we think about things and change our mindset. As the days get longer and the nights are shorter, it is now time for the bulbs to begin to bloom and the trees to turn green again symbolizing new life. This also means that the birds will return and sing beautiful melodic praises to God in the morning. During this time as the temperature rises, we will start opening our windows to allow the fresh air to come into our homes. We will begin our spring cleaning as we get rid of some of the old things and replace them with new things. So, as we are cleaning our physical homes, let us also do some spiritual and mental spring cleaning by getting rid of some of the old things that hold us back from experiencing the new things that God wants to do in our lives. In the words of Israel Houghton and New Breed, “it’s a new season, it’s a new day. A fresh anointing is flowing my way.”

“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**If anyone needs pastoral support, please feel free to call or email Pastor Valerie**

**Phone: 570 877-2975**

**Email:** **pastorWBTabernacle@outlook.com**

**Lent 2021 began on Wednesday, February 17th and ends on Saturday, April 3rd.**

What is Lent in the Bible?

**Lent** is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan.

**Lent - Wikipedia**

 en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Lent

 

www.abc-usa.org › resources › 2021-lenten-reflections

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**2021 Lenten Reflections - ABCUSA - American Baptist ...**

www.abc-usa.org › resources › 2021-lenten-reflections

To mark the 2021 Lenten Season, the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary is sharing an online devotional for prayer and contemplation entitled “2021 Lent: A Time to Get **RE**ady.” Invited persons from across the country will offer video reflections inviting us to embark on a spiritual journey of preparation.  In our Christian Tradition, we use this preparation time to **re**flect on our spiritual lives as we strive to shed worn out habits and imagine new patterns of life that draw us closer to God. Beginning this journey with Ash Wednesday, a day to **re**flect on **re**pentance, we continue through the season discerning what it means for us to **re**turn, **re**move, **re**bel, **re**spond, **re**store, **re**juvenate and **re**new until we reach **re**surrection on Easter morning.

We invite you to join us on our website as we get REady throughout the 2021 Lenten Season. Reflections will be posted prior to Ash Wednesday and each Sunday throughout Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

**Welcoming Spring!**

I don’t know about you, but I am definitely ready for Spring! I love to watch as the signs of spring begin to emerge. As the snow melts away, we can again see the grass and gardens with the crocus and daffodils poking through. The trees begin to have a sense of green flowing into the branches and the buds begin to bulge and sprout into leaves. The robins return and the birds begin to prepare their nests in preparation for new life. Signs of new life can be seen everywhere you look. Spring is a sign of renewed hope.

Easter reminds us that we have new life because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

* John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
* John 11:25: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in e, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

**Easter Symbols and Traditions**

**Easter** As Christians be celebrate Easter as a remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, while ancient history relates Easter celebration to Eostre the goddess of spring.

**Easter Eggs** Eggs have always been seen as a symbol representing new life and fertility.

In Medieval times, eggs were forbidden during lent, so eggs laid during that period were boiled or preserved to enjoy on Easter Day.

Eggs were often dyed and decorated. Orthodox Christians painted eggs bright red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Coloring eggs has become an art form such as the Pysanky and Faberge eggs.

**Easter Bunny** Rabbits have long been associated with fertility, but the association of the Easter Bunny and eggs seems to have originated as a folk tale in Germany. German immigrants to Pennsylvania brought the idea of the Easter hare who hid eggs for children to find. The practice of making chocolate cakes and bunnies evolved.

**Easter Cards** The tradition of sending Easter cards started in Victorian England.

**Easter Parades** Christians worenew clothes at Easter to symbolize new life with Christ.

**Lenten Services:**  

**Palm Sunday – March 28th**

**\*\*\* Note: Palms will be available at the church.**

**If you are not able to attend the in-person service, you may still pick up palms from the outside portico.**

**Holy Thursday Communion Service – April 1st at 7 PM**

**Easter Sunday – April 4th**

**Covid-19 Update:**

As the Covid vaccine becomes more accessible for everyone, perhaps more people will want to consider in-person worship. We continue to comply with Covid Guidelines for our Sunday services and feel that live streaming the service is the safest option; but understand that not everyone is able to use the internet and would like to attend the service in person. You are welcome to join us for in-person worship while maintaining covid protocols and safe distancing. Our goal is to provide a safe opportunity for as many people as possible to participate in the Sunday worship service.

**Communion**

If anyone is interested in receiving communion at home, disposable communion cups are available and can be picked up at the church. Contact Ron Shandorf or Bettie Sims to make arrangements. March 7th is Communion Sunday. If anyone would like, Pastor Val can offer joint communion via phone.

**Live Streaming Services:**

Live streaming can be done on any internet device including smart phones; iPads; tablets; or computers. If you have any questions about how to access live streaming, you can call Ron Shandorf at **610 462-8476.**

**To access the live streaming, you can choose one of two options:**

1. **Go to the church website:** **wbtabernacle.com** **and click on the link for live streaming. You can choose the service you would like to view.**
2. **Go to Youtube and search for “Baptist Tabernacle Church-WB”. You can select the service you would like to view.**

**Church Survey:**

**Please take time to complete and return the survey questionnaire that was sent to all member households. We are particularly interested in understanding how many of our members are able to access on-line programs and information options.**

**Church Business:**

**Copies of the Annual Report are available at the church.**

**Annual Church Business Meeting: Was postponed until Sunday, March 14th after the church service. Participation via ZOOM can be done by clicking on the Link on the Website OR can be arranged by contacting Ron Shandorf. He will email you an invite.**

**Individual Board Meetings: Board of Deacons; Board of Education; and Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, March 11th at 5:15 PM at the church prior to the Official Board meeting.**

**Official Board Meeting: Thursday, March 11th at 6:00 PM at the church. Participation via ZOOM can be done by clicking on the Link on the Website OR can be arranged by contacting Ron Shandorf. He will email you an invite.**

**Missions: The America for Christ Offering**

**Please remember our members who are sick or shut-in by sending greeting cards.**

Note: Mrs. Ebert is still residing at Hampton House.

Arline Ebert Beatrice Murray

Hampton House Nursing Home Timber Ridge

Unit C Bed 12 Rm. #105

1548 San Souci Parkway 1555 East End Blvd

Hanover Township, PA 18706 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

**Birthdays and Anniversaries: March**

10 Linda Evans 26 Jacki Hauer

18 Ada Cannavale 26 Amy Foltz

21 Jeffrey DeRocco Jr

Tear-off and retain!

**Key Contact Info:**

Website: **wbtabernacle.com**

YouTube Channel: Search YouTube for “**Baptist Tabernacle Church-WB”**

Facebook: Search for “Group” = “Baptist Tabernacle” and Join the group

**Name Email Address Phone #**

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