** Baptist Tabernacle **

**Baptist Tabernacle**

**63 Division Street**

**Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706**

**570 823-3083**

**Website:** www.wbtabernacle.com

**YouTube Channel:** Baptist Tabernacle Church – WB

Email: Pastor.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com

**Tabernacle Tidings**

 March/ April

 **2023**

 

**Happy Easter! Happy Spring!**

**Message from Pastor Valerie**

**BLOOMING**

We have officially entered the Spring Season. It is a time when we see the beautiful flowers starting to bloom as they emerge from the dirt. We start to see the results of what people have planted or sown. In Galatians 6:7, the Apostle Paul tells us, “A man reaps what he sows.” If a person plants Tulip seeds, we would expect to see Tulips blooming. We wouldn’t expect to see Hydrangeas. In the same vein, if we have sown seeds of hate, malice, lies, gossip, and fear mongering, then that is what we expect to see. But if we sow the seeds of love, peace, joy, hope, humility, gratitude, grace, and mercy, then that is what will bloom during the springtime. So, let’s plant or sow the things of God and watch them bloom into beautiful flowers that will be a blessing to the world as they smell their sweet fragrance.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Val

## **How is the Easter date determined every year?**

**Adapted from: Country Living**

 **BY****JENNIFER ALDRICH****AND****ERIN CAVOTO**UPDATED: MAR 20, 2023

First off, it's important to know that though the exact date of Easter changes each year, there's a definite period in which the day occurs, and that's March 22 through April 25 (in the Gregorian calendar, not the Julian calendar). Easter always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon (the first full moon that occurs after the vernal equinox, which signifies the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere), according to The Old Farmer's Almanac.

In 2023, the vernal equinox falls on March 20, 2023, making the first full moon after that date April 6 and the following Sunday—April 9—Easter 2023.

* Easter Sunday changes dates year-to-year. This year, **Easter is on Sunday, April 9, 2023.**
* How is the Easter date determined? The holiday occurs on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, which welcomes spring in the northern hemisphere.
* All of the celebrations leading up to Easter also change dates.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The meaning of Lent is to be "encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ," according to the United Methodist Church's website. Many people choose to give up something or give themselves to charity during the 40-day-long celebration.

Lent comes to a close during Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday on April 2. Palm Sunday marks Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem where he was was greeted with palm branches, according to the 40 Acts website. Several days later comes Holy Wednesday, which falls on April 5 this year, and this recognizes Judas Iscariot and his plot to betray the savior. The next day—April 6—is Holy Thursday, the anniversary of the Last Supper. Good Friday, on April 7, is celebrated next, and that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Easter Sunday, on April 9, celebrates the day that Jesus rose from the tomb and marks the end of Lent.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND

**Easter Egg Giveaway!**

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND

**Since our Pumpkin Giveaway was such a success in the Fall, we decided to have a neighborhood Egg Giveaway as an Easter outreach.**

**Saturday, March 25th from 2-4 PM**

**1 Dozen eggs/ family**

**Goody Bags with Easter craft for kids**

**(We gave away 55 dozen extra large eggs and hopefully encouraged neighborhood interest in attending Sunday church services).**

**\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_**

**What is the biblical meaning of an egg?**

Christianity adopted eggs as a symbol of **fertility, resurrection, and eternal life**. From the outside, eggs appear stone cold, yet inside they nurture young life. Just as a grave keeps life locked in, eggs stood for the tomb in Jerusalem, from which Christ rose from death 'like a bird hatching from an egg'.  Consequently, eggs are an **inherent part of****Christian Easter** celebrations. In one of Jesus’ parables, he calls the egg a good gift, hence eggs were regarded as ‘virtuous food’.

In Spain and Italy, eggs are still prominent in baptismal chapels, on altars of Mary, or at the feet of Jesus on the cross. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, to commemorate **Christ's resurrection**, golden eggs or ostrich eggs are hung on the ‘icon wall’.

Whether hen’s eggs, chocolate eggs or porcelain eggs, **Easter eggs** come in a variety of colors and sizes. To this day, it is customary to eat eggs at Easter, to give them as gifts and to use them for decorative purposes. Not only does Christian symbolism play a role in this, but there are also **practical reasons**. In the Middle Ages, the church **forbade** eating **meat and eggs** during Lent (from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday). As a result, farmers accumulated large numbers of eggs before Easter and so they were cooked, decorated, consecrated in the church and then given away. They reappeared on the table on Easter Sunday. Farmers also often paid part of their rent in ‘eggs with interest' at Easter.

**Welcome Springtime!**

**We look forward to the wonders of springtime as we watch the daily changes such as the greening of the grass, the budding of the trees and the chirping of the birds. Remember to give thanks to God who created all things.**

**All Things Bright and Beautiful**

 All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
He made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

The purple headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

*Author: Ce­cil F. Al­ex­an­der, Hymns for Lit­tle Child­ren, 1848*

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

**America for Christ Offering**

The mission offering focus for April and May will be the America for Christ Offering. The 2023 theme is “Grace upon Grace,” based on John 1:16 -17 (NRSVue): “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” American for Christ 2023 marks year one of a multi-year exploration of grace as the impetus for charitable support of ABHMS’ transformational mission. The national goal is to raise $1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

**How America for Christ Funds are Utilized**

Our gifts for America for Christ support regions, churches, and community organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico with grants for a variety of purposes, including:

* Chaplaincy and spiritual caregivers support
* Aid for children living in poverty
* New, innovative ministries
* Developing church leaders
* Promoting discipleship

**Active Shooter Training Session**

**When: Thursday, April 13th , 6:30-9 PM**

Houses of worship are supposed to be a safe refuge but they are no longer immune to becoming a target of violent encounters. Baptist Tabernacle is sponsoring a training session in coordination with the Wilkes-Barre Police Department. Invitations for participation have been sent to area churches.

Wilkes-Barre Police Sergeant James Sheridan will present information on how we can prevent and handle an active shooter situation in a worship setting.

The training is meant to teach people what happens during an active shooting event, the natural response of people, and what actions law enforcement takes. Please note: Some of the content may be disturbing to hear.

If you are interested in attending the session please **email** **barbara.nanstiel@wilkes.edu**

 **Meetings/ Events:**

**March 16 Boards meet at 6 PM Official Board meets at 7 PM**

**March 25 Egg-citing Neighborhood Outreach Easter Egg Giveaway!**

 **2-4 PM**

**April 2 Palm Sunday**

**April 6 Holy Thursday Service 6 PM**

**April 11 (Tues) Boards meet at 6 PM Official Board meets at 7 PM**

**April 13 Active Shooter Training 6:30 – 9:00 PM**

**Prayer List:**

**Seasoned Saints: Margaret Bullock, Peggy Breese, Bob & Elaine Singer, Mrs. Brezinski, Bettie Sims.**

**We pray for the families & friends of: Arleen Ebert, Beatrice Murray, Maria Armenti, Rose, Jane Tudgay, Merissa, Eric, Joann, Aunt Charlotte and Allen, Coach Crane.**

**Donna Ostrander and family; Gail & Steven & family; Kristy; Peggy Lewis; Toni; Charlotte Blaine; Sharon; Carol Powell; Gary & Sterling; David; Kenny; Jennifer; Judy Dawe; Kenny; Clara Haynes; Charlotte Ledbetter; Ruth Black; Gloria Watson; Robin; Leanne; Shanette Black; Barb’s family including Dottie; Matt & Amy; Andrea; Mary’s Mom Nancy; Erma Kohl; Wayne and Mary Hauer; Sandip; Matthew Kobusky; Sylvia Parker; Linda Evans; Eddie; Amber; Andrew; Debbie; Theresa; Bill Beebe; former President Jimmy Carter.**

**People with special needs; Relief from nature’s fury; Mass Shooting victims; World trouble spots including Ukraine.**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

**March:**

10 Linda Evans

18 Ada Cannavale

21 Jeffrey DeRocco Jr

26 Jacki Hauer

26 Amy Foltz

**April:**

13 Michael Sims 19 Jase Grilz

14 Barry & Peggy Breeze (anniv,) 24 Charles Gordon

14 Tony Marcincavage 26 Tammy Marcincavage

18 Barry Breeze 29 Bethany Saltz

18 Elizabeth Finnegan Le

**Live Streaming:**

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. l**

**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.**

**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 #**

Pastor Valerie Black Pastor.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com (570) 877-2975

Tech issues – Ron Shandorf IT.WBTabernacle@Gmail.com (610) 462-8476

Bea Fell BeaFell93@Gmail.com (570) 301-8073

Ron Shandorf Ron@Shandorf.com (610) 462-8476

Janet Murray JanetMurray07@Gmail.com (914)260-9066