

## Calendar

- Al Anon:  
March 5, 12, 19, 26, 10am
- Back Row Boys:  
March 4, 9am @ Iron Kettle
- Bible Study:  
March 4, 11, 18, 25, 10am
- Book Club:  
("Paper Girl" by Beth Macy)  
March 30, 6:30 pm
- Christian Education:  
March 16, 6:30pm
- Deacons:  
March 24, 7pm
- Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:  
March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25,  
31, 10:30am
- Session:  
March 9, 7pm
- Women's Group:  
March 10, 6:30pm @ 42North

## Holy Week

Mark your calendars and join us during Holy Week!

-March 29: Palm Sunday

-April 2: Maundy Thursday

-April 3: Good Friday  
Ecumenical service at St. Matthias Episcopalian Church

-April 5: Easter with communion



## A Note from the Pastor

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” – Matthew 6:33

I recently stumbled upon an Indigenous story online that shares wisdom concerning the importance of looking inward (I shared it during my Ash Wednesday reflection):

The Creator said: “I want to hide something for the humans until they are ready for it. It is the realization that they create their own reality.”

The eagle declared, “Give to me – I will take it to the moon.”

The Creator responded, “No. One day they will go there and find it.”

The salmon said, “I will bury it on the bottom of the ocean.”

The Creator replied, “No. They will go there, too.”

The buffalo declared, “I will bury it on the Great Plains.”

The creator said, “They will cut into the skin of the earth and find it even there.”

Grandmother who lives in the breast of Mother Earth, and who has no physical eyes but sees with spiritual eyes, said, “Put it inside of them.” And the Creator said, “It is done.”

This story reminds me of the meaningful personal work we do during Lent. Our society is fast-paced, and our wild technology only makes things faster, so much so that it can be really challenging to find quiet places to slow down, to reflect, and to pray. But, I am convinced that spending more time considering what we do and why makes all the difference in our personal lives and in the lives of our communities. Is life really about buying all of those things that make us happy? Is the value we bring to the table our degree or pedigree? How do we answer God’s calling in our lives as time marches on? Lent challenges us, every year, to recenter our lives on Jesus Christ and to strive to live out his values in our day-to-day lives is. Afterall, these are values of the kingdom of God that Jesus preached about so often. As the story above declares, we can help create our own reality – and the answer lies inside each of us. God has given us tremendous gifts, not to mention a most remarkable creation. Lent is that holy season that invites us to return to the good work that our faith calls us to. We serve Christ, not the empire. We live with love, not hate. We proclaim hope, not despair. Let us seek Christ’s kingdom and his righteousness. Amen.

## Christian Education Update

March is the beginning of a busy spring for the Christian Education Department.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

1st Sunday of the month is "Music with Brad" during Sunday School.

2nd-4th Sunday regular Sunday School classes for pK-7 grades are offered.

March 8th, the confirmation will meet and begin the final stages of the confirmation class.

### YOUTH GROUP Meetings

March 13-14th is the highly anticipated Youth Group Lock-in.

March 29th they will help with the FISH food bag delivery.

### BIBLE STUDY

10 AM Wednesday Bible Study will meet weekly in the lounge.

We will be completing our study of "What My Grandmother Taught Me" on March 4th.

Our next study, "Let Justice Roll Down", will start on March 11th.

### CE COMMITTEE

March meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 6:30pm in the Youth Room.

Finally, the CE Committee is excited to begin preparations for this year's CE Mission. We have selected a local program, Charlotte House. This home is located in North Java. It provides Hospice care which includes supporting family and friends during a difficult period of life.

On the 1st two Sundays in April as well as in the April Chimes, we will announce how you can participate in contributing to this amazing care facility. Collection of needed supplies will occur from April 19th thru 26th. This will be another opportunity to show the children and adults how little acts can make a BIG difference.

## Aktion Club Dance!

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Aktion Club Tropical Dance is coming! Join us on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30-8:30pm as we dance the night away! Please be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities, whether it be set-up, clean-up or making/bringing a yummy treat. If you weren't able to attend last year, mark your calendar now. It is the most joyous evening! We are so excited!



## Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

Come each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this winter! Sprouts is designed to enhance your child's early growth & development and increase socialization. Get ready to learn and have fun each Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:30am! See the calendar for details. Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



## March Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

Max Bindig  
Aurora Boneberg  
Heather Dechert  
Charlotte Fischer

James Griffis  
Mike Guppenberger  
Jenny Higgins  
Meg MacBain

Nan Murphy  
Patty Patterson  
Charlie Specht

Isa Strzelec  
Jen Suckow  
Gerald Thurn

Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!  
The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month.