**Central Baptist Church**

 **March 2018**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

Are you a sports fan? For many diehard college basketball enthusiasts, the waiting is over. What am I referring to? March Madness naturally! March Madness is the time of year when the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men’s and women’s college basketball tournaments are slated. For Connecticut Huskie fans, (like my dear 94-year-old mother) it habitually is not so much where the ‘Lady Huskies’ will place in the final standings but where they will place their 1st place trophy! For me, (two of my four boys graduated from UConn), it’s come to a point when the enthusiasm has diminished. The excitement of watching a nail-biting, (March Madness exhilaration) has ceased over the past years.

Have we, as Christians, strayed from the anticipation and enthusiasm during our own ‘March Madness’ of Lent? Has it turned into just another month of the year, another season on our church calendar?

If it has for you, do not feel like an epic failure because you are not alone. According to a Nashville, TN (Bible-belt state), LifeWay survey, 76% of Americans say they don’t typically observe Lent. Lent, for some, has become unconnected from its explicitly religious roots.

Lent is a time many people will give up something they enjoy, hopefully not Lent itself! Fasting, giving up certain foods or sweets, chocolate ranks #1, the concept of ‘giving up’ something for 40 days symbolizes Jesus’ sacrifice of 40 days in the desert. Any ‘self-sacrifice’ that provides us more time in prayer or to reflect on our spiritual lives is wonderful. However, I mentioned during a recent sermon the thought of adding something to our daily lives rather than taking something away. Lend and lent are the present and past tenses of *to lend*. Lend denotes that we expect something back at a future date. I would encourage us lending another a smile, a shoulder, a helping hand, something that does not require you or me to have the ‘good deed’ repaid. In many cases, it may be paid forward. What is important is that our ‘kind act’ allows us to feel Christ’s lovingness being emulated.

Theologically or spiritually, the season of Lent encourages believers to reflect on Christ’s life, suffering, and death, a time of meditation and our thoughts and actions imitating Jesus toward a ‘renewal’ of ourselves. We come to terms with the more difficult aspects of our faith, disengaging from worldly vices or distractions, anything that separates us from God. Lent provides a time of tuning into God, realizing the blessings and the beauty in our lives found in following Christ. Lent is reconnecting in joy to the grace of God, through Christ’s passion and victory over death.

Please join us during Holy Week for our moving Maundy Worship service, ecumenical Good Friday service held this year at Saint Marks, Easter Sunrise Service at Beavertail and our Sunday morning 9:30 Easter Service at Central Baptist.

Blessings and Peace to each of you.

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Kurt*

**Communion Sunday Collection**

On Sunday, March 4 we will collect grocery items to donate to an area food bank. The lack of food continues to be a serious problem for many of our Rhode Island neighbors.

**Spring Mission and Service Day**

The women of ABWMRI wish all of our faith family a Happy New Year!.  We are already planning several wonderful events for 2018 that our faith sisters will not want to miss!

Saturday, March 10, 8:30 - 2:00 will be our Spring Mission and Service Day at Lakewood Baptist Church. (225 Atlantic Ave., Warwick). The focus will be Elder Care Ministries featuring Keynote Speaker Reverend Kathryn Palen, ABCORI Associate Executive Minister for Elder Care Ministries. There will also be conversation circles, a "traveling purse offering" to support our state project and a collection of feminine hygiene products.

Lunch will be provided by the ladies of Lakewood. In order to prepare enough food, **please register by e-mail, text or phone to Elaine Williamson at** elainebw02888@gmail.com **or 401-226-5040 by March 2.**

[Download the flyer](https://abcori.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13dd5c5f77749f2be845a94c7&id=ff07c0b02f&e=0689bb437a) and share it with the women of your church.

Friday - Saturday, June 1 - 2, will be our Annual Conference for Women and Girls at Canonicus.  Don't miss out!  Add these dates to your calendar now!  If you are not yet receiving our ABWMRI newsletter (K.I.T.), please send an email to cmyron2005@yahoo.com and we can add you to our email list.

\*\*\* Side Note\*\*\*

One of the four speakers for Spring Mission and Service Day will be Rev. Kurt Satherlie he will be accompanied by Arlen LaBua, he will be discussing *Care for the Caregiver*. All are welcome. If in need of transportation, a carpool can be set up.

**Worship Service Roundtable**

During the season of Lent, we will hold a Worship Service Roundtable in Clarke Hall beginning on March 11th at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join.

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 9 a.m. at Slice of Heaven.

All CBC ladies welcome!

**Little Dresses for Africa**

The mission of “Little Dresses for Africa” is to provide relief to children of Africa, by distributing home-made dresses to little girls, primarily in African villages, but also other countries in crisis. These meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Clarke Hall.

***Living with Conscious Abandon***

Will meet on the 4th Monday of each month at CBC in Clarke Hall from 1 - 2:30 pm. The group focuses on personal reflection of both Christian and Eastern Spiritual guidelines in living each day with conscious awareness of personal intention, thought, speech and actions.  Join us as we gather to share our responses to daily reflections that will support us in living our lives with wisdom, integrity and compassion. Our reference guide is ***Living and Dying with Confidence: A day by day guide***by Anyen Rinpoche and Allison Choying Zangmo. The text may be purchased at Amazon for $11.We will begin with month 5 in October. All are welcome. The class is free of charge. Rev. Kurt Satherlie and Janet Larson facilitate the sessions. Mark your calendar for this seasons' sessions: Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May TBA.

**CBC Walking Party**

Please join us as we walk to up-beat music in Clarke Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00a.m. to approximately 8:45a.m.  We do a warm-up, walk a couple miles, do a cool down, then a few floor exercises to tone arms, legs, abs, chest and back.  We are a fun bunch! Collectively, we’ve walked thousands of miles together!  Please join us!

**Holy Week Opportunities
Palm Sunday, March 25**

 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Palms

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Service of Communion & Tenebrae

**Good Friday, March 30**

 TBA Ecumenical Service at St. Mark Church

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Beavertail State Park

 6:30 a.m. Pastries & Coffee at CBC in Clarke Hall

 9:30 a.m. Worship Celebration

**Lenten Folders**
Make a special donation to CBC is by using a Lenten folder. The folders have spaces for inserting quarters throughout the Lenten season, as well as a pocket for currency or checks. They are available in the church parlor.

**Easter Flower Orders**
If you would like to order Easter flowers for the sanctuary, please complete the enclosed form and place it, along with payment, in the box in the parlor or mail both to the church office at P.O. Box 295, Jamestown, RI 02835-0295. The deadline for orders is March 25th. This year tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are $13 each. Easter lilies & Stargazer lilies are $15. The flowers will be provided by The Secret Garden.

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 Easter Flowers

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Given by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Flower choice:**

 ***Quantity***

**Choose one:** Tulip \_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_

 *or* Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_

 Stargazer Lily \_\_\_\_

P*lease make checks payable to CBC.* Total amount attached \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Would like to keep \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

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**Central Baptist Church**
*A church with open doors A congregation with open minds A community with open hearts*

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