



The Church Mouse

Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood
401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

March 2022

March Message:

Realizing that long before our time, civilization switched from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar. Therefore, "March" was named for the Roman god of war "Mars". This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. Signs of warmer weather became evident.

There is a gradual **awaking** of the **earth**, e.g., the sun seems warmer and stronger, birds that migrated to warmer places are beginning to return. I even saw a "flock of robins" about 8 or 10, the other day. Also, there are signs of crocus and daffodil bulbs breaking through the soil and if you look at the trees, more buds are appearing.

Some days of special meaning in March 2022 would be **Ash Wednesday** on the second, **Daylight Savings time** change on March 13th, spring ahead. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night so you won't be late for church on Sunday. (Just a reminder). **St. Patrick's Day** is on the 17th which might include Irish parades, parties and of course wearing of the green. Next would be the 20th, the **1st day of Spring**. Now add your own personal days to the mix, birthdays, anniversaries, special days and you'll have a really full month.

This year the more serious period of time is the **beginning of Lent** on **Ash Wednesday**, March 2nd. The **Lenten Season** consists of **40 weekdays and 6 Sundays**. This period of time culminated in **Holy Week**. The Lenten Period is when the **church proclaims, remembers and responds** to the **atoning death** of our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**.

Springtime is the reawaking that should apply to us as **Christians** as we observe the **beauty unfolding in God's world**. As we give praise and thanks to Him, let's not forget that **we are reflections of His light and Salvation**.

With prayers and blessings,

Betty

CLP



"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



The Clerk's Corner

Greetings, Everyone,

"In like a Lion, Out like a Lamb." My mind wanders as I ponder what I sincerely hope are the last days of another winter. I am SO ready for this winter to be over! It hasn't been too bad a winter in terms of snow, but I'm still ready for the first Robin, the first Crocus, and the first Tulip. How about you?

I'm ready to do the pre-season yard work, **preparing the ground** and our **raised beds** with the compost that **RV works on year-round**. It's almost time to **trim the dead wood** from the **rose bushes**, with **Thomas's** able assistance.

As we prepare to take on these tasks, **I think of the circle of life of my garden**: prep, plant, maintain, harvest, seasonal clean-up, and then prep again the next spring. My mind ponders on, and now I am onto **the seasonal nature of the Church**. I think of the **Lamb. The Lamb of God**. I think of the **solemn nature of Lent**, followed by **Holy Week** and the **glory of Easter**. My Music Director self thinks of all of the music associated with these special times in our shared church life. I ponder **how blessed I am to share this life with all of you**.

That's what I ponder on this dreary winter day. What are *you* thinking about?

With hugs and prayers,
Sheryl

MEMBER UPDATES



We'd like to thank **Nancy** Gasper and **Steve** Alletti for working along with **Sandra** Barberena to dig in and **clean various areas** of our **church!** On more than one occasion they got together and put in hard work that culminated into a very noticeable difference in our Church surroundings! Thank you so much to all three of you for your **kindness** and the **generous** giving of your time to make things nicer for us all!

We are planning a **Church Spring Cleaning Day** soon! Stay tuned for further info...It'll be fun...if not fun...necessary! haha!

Our **Session** Elders have been busy brainstorming on **Church activities** for the future, **community awareness** for our loving Church and ways to **grow our membership**. If you have any ideas please don't be shy..share them at Coffee Hour with Session members or with friends in our congregation!

KNIT OR NOT fellowship will **not** be **meeting** in **March** and look forward to **resuming on April 5th 2:30 to 4:00** in the Church Conference Room!

****Please place your yearly \$44.00 Per Capita payment** in the envelope provided and give to **Treasurer Carol Dass** as soon as you are able...thank you!

*Is there something you would like placed in this area of The Church Mouse Newsletter?
email: CarrielWerner@aol.com



Throughout **March and April** we will be focusing our **food collection** on **Food for Kids!** Donations might include **drink boxes**, individual packs of **Peanut Butter and Jelly**, **dried fruit snacks**, **Jello Puddings**...and more...there are so many fun products for kids to choose from in the food stores! All donations benefit the **Center for Food Action**. Many families continue to suffer due to the pandemic and rely upon donations of food and offerings for children would be most appreciated! Donation bins can be found in our Lobby area. Thank you ☺

March Birthdays:

Nancy Gasper – March 3rd

Steve Alletti – March 30th



We wish you both a terrific Birthday and a wonderful year ahead!



Soon you will be receiving an envelope for "**One Great Hour of Sharing**". One Great Hour of Sharing donations go to supporting three programs! **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People** - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. So, please consider making a donation this year. Place your donation envelope in the box with your weekly offering! Thank you in advance...***If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!***



Don't forget to set your **clocks ahead** one hour on Saturday night March 12th for *Daylight Savings Time* beginning on Sunday, **March 13th**!

Sooo...who really was St. Patrick ?

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is **the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle**. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to **Ireland** as a slave at the age of 16. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which time he turned with **fervor to his faith**. He later escaped and reunited with his family in Britain, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing **Christianity** to its people. So...Saint Patrick was actually a **missionary** that we celebrate on **St. Patrick's Day!**
(He was never officially canonized as a Saint by the Catholic Church).



The Legend of the shamrock has St. Patrick explain the concept of the **Holy Trinity, three persons in one God**, to an unbeliever by showing him the **three-leaved plant with one stalk**. Traditionally, Irishmen have worn **shamrocks, the national flower of Ireland**, in their lapels on St. Patrick's Day ever since...
Corned Beef and Cabbage, however, is a whole other story! <wink>

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!



Question: Why was my paycheck envelope full of Parsley ?

Answer: Someone *garnished* my wages!

Thought for the month:

" More than machinery, we need humanity; more than cleverness, we need kindness and gentleness."

... *Charlie Chaplin*



HAPPY SPRING!

