**Central Baptist Church**



 **March 2020**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**



***Your long-term happiness and fulfillment depend on your ability to fulfill your soul’s unique purpose and to fill the place in the world that only you can fill, making the contribution that only you can make. ~Rod Stryker, author***

As I gaze at the photo above my emotions shift from loneliness to serenity. Loneliness with the lack of human connectedness, a worldly sentiment when we walk alone in life. Serenity is found in witnessing the beauty and realizing only God could create such a lovely paradise and we are never truly alone.

As I meditate on God’s handiwork, I realize that during times of my life when I feel empty and alone, I am never truly abandoned. Imagining the warm sand on my feet yet sheltering my face from the cool ocean breezes, I breathe in the breath of the Almighty’s Spirit. My world as I knew it only seconds ago has changed. It is not some epiphany or lightning bolt experience. It is more a self-actualization to look at my life and the world through God’s eyes and see the cup as half full!

Lent provides a time of tuning into God, realizing the blessings and beauty in our lives found in following Christ. Lent is reconnecting in joy to the grace of God, surrounded by others who share their unique gifts and experiences of living as followers of Christ.

The season of Lent in the Christian church is typically observed with giving something up for 40 days symbolizing Jesus’ sacrifice of the 40 days in the desert. Rather than taking away I invite each of us to add something that will create joy in another’s heart as well as our own. During the 40 days of Lent as we walk with Christ through the desert or the empty winter beach may we use our gifts to further Christ’s message of love to others.

Rephrasing the quote by Rod Stryker, when you and I fulfill our *soul’s unique purpose*, we *make a contribution that only you* (and I) *can make.* Within that unique contribution we bolster our own happiness and fulfillment. Our individual roles or gifts from God positively impact lives and combined with one another, we optimistically effect many lives.

May this season offer hope, grace and love to you as we share the Good News of Christ to all.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Kurt

**Annual Stewardship Campaign Begins**

Our annual Stewardship Campaign has begun. The campaign will run through the end of March. As in recent years, we ask not just for a financial pledge, but also for your thoughtful commitment of time and talent for CBC and its mission. Please look for your letter, we hope to have a response by March 31st. if possible, so that the Trustees will have firm numbers to build next year’s budget. If you have any questions or comments, please contact John Andrews at jaya@aya.yale.edu, or by phone 401-497-7456.. Thank you!

**Coffee House**

Central Baptist Church of Jamestown is pleased to announce the return of the CBC Coffee House to Clarke Hall in the church at 99 Narragansett Avenue. The first of what we now hope will be a monthly series will be held on **Friday evening, March 6th**, and is open to all lovers of good fun and great music in and around Jamestown. The doors will open a 6:30 pm, and the music will start at 7 pm. There is no formal admission fee, so free will donations are most gratefully accepted. Refreshments will also be provided with free will donations welcomed.

We are excited to present some of Jamestown’s best known local musicians as well as a couple of new and equally talented friends. Opening the evening will be the trio Home Brew featuring Matt and Judy Bolles with Cheryl Grelle. Matt and Judy have been active on the RI music scene for many years and still perform with the popular South County Rounders band. Cheryl is a fabulous singer whose ability to solo as well as blend with others makes possible the eclectic blend of music Home Brew performs. Next up will be the duo Perfect Match featuring Denise and Mike Gouvin who perform an amazing variety spanning several genres of music. Their sweet and soulful vocals along with Mike’s smooth guitar enable them to put their own spin on classic rock, R&B and pop favorites. Rounding out the evening will be Folk Support Group featuring Ed McGuirl and Mike Fischman, a multi-instrumental duo who have been playing a variety of folk music for some thirty years without losing their youthful attitude. They would be rich and famous folk musicians if that were not an oxymoron, but maintain a firm belief that they will be an overnight success any day now! Ed and Mike will invite everyone, including the audience to join in an evening ending grand finale. Please join us!

**CBC Prayer Shawl Volunteers**

Attention All Knitters, you are needed to help make Prayer Shawls for CBC folks who are shut ins or have serious illnesses.  We like to have a couple on hand just in case.  Only ask you to knit a few rows & then pass it on to someone else.  It's straight knitting.  No purling.  Nice & easy.  Please contact Ellen if you can help out.

**Communion Sunday & Mission Collection**

Running thru every Sunday during the month of March, we will be collecting toothpaste, mayonnaise, pasta sauce and gluten free items. These donations will be going to the Jamestown Community Food pantry. Sunday Communion collection is going to the mission fund and Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

**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. **March dates are Mar. 2nd & Mar.16th**

**CBC Walking Work-Out**

Free and friendly! No gym membership fees required! Walk with us to up-beat music on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Clarke Hall. We start with a gentle warm-up, walk about two miles, then cool down, followed by gentle stretches. This full-body workout is non-competitive and can be done at your own level/pace. Questions? Contact Ellen Greene. March dates are: 3,5,10,12,17,19,24,26 & 31.

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast will be held Thursday March 12th at 9 a.m. at Slice of Heaven. All CBC ladies welcome!

**Simple Blessings: *Centering Prayer and Spiritual Reflection***

Join the Christian Education Board of Central Baptist Church in Clarke Hall on **Wednesday, March 18th** from 1 – 3:00 p.m. We will be viewing a Good Friday and a Holy Saturday ritual that was presented at the Universal Christ Conference with Richard Rohr in March 2019.   Please join us as we prepare for the Easter Celebration. For information Contact Central Baptist Church 423-1651 or Janet Larson.

 **We Noticed Some Nice Things Happening at CBC**

If you see someone “doing something nice for CBC or to Thank someone". Please call the church office 423-1651 or by e-mail to tanya@cbcjamestown.com your input is always appreciated…Thanks!!

**\*\***Thank you to the CBC Deacons who have been extremely busy this term with several extra events, supporting the pastor, and all of their regularly assigned duties.  They have been operating with less than a full board of six. And some of them also participate in other CBC activities and committees. Their hard work and many accomplishments has been noticed and appreciated over this past year.  A sincere thanks to all of you.

**\*\***The Jamestown Community Food Pantry board members and volunteers send their thanks to the CBC members. Your continued support of our mission is so appreciated..

Sincerely,

Deb Nordstrom and Arlene LaBua

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| **March 2020** |  |
| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |  |
|  1 **First Sunday of Lent** **Communion Sunday Collection**   | 2**Little Dresses for Africa** 1 p.m. | 3**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. | 4 | 5 | 6**Coffee House**Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Music starts at7 p.m. | 7 |  |
| 8 **Second Sunday** **of Lent**      | 9 | 10**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. | 11**Direction Night** 7 p.m. | 12**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m.**Ladies Breakfast at** **Slice of Heaven**  9 a.m. | 13 | 14 |  |
| 15**Third Sunday** **of Lent** **Guest Preacher:** **Jonathan Ryder** | 16**Little Dresses for Africa** 1 p.m. | 17**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. | 18**Simple Blessings** 1p.m.**Looking Upwards**  5 p.m. | 19**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. | 20 | 21**Home Show**  9-2 p.m. |  |
| 22**Forth Sunday** **of Lent**  | 23 | 24**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m.***Courier* Deadline**  | 25 | 26**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. | 27 | 28 |  |
| 29**Fifth Sunday** **of Lent**   | 30 | 31**Walking Workout** 8:30 a.m. |  |  |  |  |  |

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

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