**March 12, 2023**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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*Jesus really was thirsty. It’s what John tells us in this story. He was thirsty, so He asked for a drink of water. I sometimes wonder what would have happened if the Samaritan woman would have simply given Jesus a drink of water? But she didn’t. She began to ask Jesus questions. Though Jesus was still thirsty (John never tells us that He got a drink of water), He put His needs aside to talk with this Samaritan woman about water. And life. And God. Jesus knew that, in God, He had all that He needed. And because He knew this, He could put His own needs aside so that someone else might learn how wondrous God is.*

 *- Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville & Frankford Memorial United Methodist Churches***

***Third Sunday in Lent* March 12, 2023**

**Welcome**

 Chorus of Welcome *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

 **\*Call to Worship** *Psalm 95*

 *Come, let us bow down and worship God; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! He is our God;*

 *we are the people he cares for, the flock for which He provides. Listen today to what he says:*

*“Don't be stubborn, as your ancestors were at Meribah, as they were that day in the desert at Massah.*

 *There they put me to the test and tried me, although they had seen what I did for them.*

 **\*Hymn of Confession** *“Rock of Ages”* [VS. 1-3] # 361

 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood,
 from thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know,
 could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

 Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress;
 helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

 **Prayer of Confession** *(seated and bowed)*

 **Almighty God, You know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Be gracious**

 **to us as we have gone astray from Your ways, and bring us again, with penitent hearts**

 **and steadfast faith, to embrace and hold fast to Your unchanging grace. Receive our worship**

 **and the offering of ourselves, we pray, as we know You to be the Lover of our souls. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer and Meditation………………..Words of Forgiveness*

 **Hymn of Grace** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul*”* [VS. 4] # 479

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin; let the healing streams abound,

make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;

spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………The Lord’s Prayer***

*Our Father, who art in heaven,**hallowed be Thy name;**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us. And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Gifts and Offerings

*Offertory “Living Water, Bread Of Life”*

Doxology *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”*  [TUNE: HAMBURG]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**\*Hymn** *“The First One Ever”* [VS. 2] **/** *“Fill My Cup, Lord”* # 276 **/** # 641

 The first one ever, oh, ever to know of Messiah, Jesus, when He said, “I am He,”

 was the Samaritan woman who drew from the well, and blessed is she, is she who perceives.

 Oh, blessed is she who perceives the Lord, oh, blessed is she who perceives.

 ‘Twas the Samaritan woman who drew from the well, and blessed is she, is she who perceives.

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.

Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. John 4:5-42*

 [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son

 Joseph. **6**Jacob’s well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well.

 It was about noon. **7**A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me

 some water to drink.” **8**His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food. **9**The Samaritan

 woman asked, “Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?”

 (Jews and Samaritans didn’t associate with each other.) **10**Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s

 gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give me some water to drink,’ you would be asking him and he would give

 you living water.” **11**The woman said to him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep.

 Where would you get this living water? **12**You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you?

 He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

 **13**Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, **14**but whoever drinks from

 the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it

 a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.” **15**The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water,

 so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!” **16**Jesus said to her,

 “Go, get your husband, and come back here.” **17**The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

 “You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. **18**“You’ve had five husbands,

 and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.” **19**The woman said,

 “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. **20**Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people

 say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.” **21**Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time

 is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in

 Jerusalem. **22**You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because

 salvation is from the Jews. **23**But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship

 in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. **24**God is spirit,

 and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.” **25**The woman said, “I know that the Messiah

 is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

**26**Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you. **27**Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were

 shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you

 talking with her?” **28**The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people,

**29**“Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?”

**30**They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus. **31**In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus,

 saying, “Rabbi, eat.” **32**Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

**33**The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?” **34**Jesus said to them,

 “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. **35**Don’t you have

 a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice

 that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. **36**Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering

 fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together.

**37**This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. **38**I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t

 work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.” **39**Many Samaritans in that city

 believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever

 done.” **40**So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there

 two days. **41**Many more believed because of his word, **42**and they said to the woman, “We no longer

 believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the

 savior of the world.”

 **Sermon** *“Living Water”*

**Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

 I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

 the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

 from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *“Glorious Things of The Are Spoken”* [VS. 1-2] # 731

 Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; He whose word cannot be broken,
 formed thee for His own abode. On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

 See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters,
 and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river ever will their thirst assuage?
 Grace which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

**\*Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**\*Choral Benediction**  *“Hope of the World”* [VS. 4] # 178

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,

we render back the love Thy mercy gave us; take Thou our lives, and use them as Thou wilt.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

When we read the bible we learn to imitate God. As we grow in our relationship with God, we are transformed to become more like Him . . . from the inside out!

**March 19, 2023 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

John 9:1-41 - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 - Psalm 23 - Ephesians 5:8-14

**Wednesday Vespers (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29) @ 6:30pm**

 Philadelphia Protestant Home Chapel

Please park on side of building and enter through the chapel doors.

Masks are required.

These services will be recorded and after worship will be available of Facebook, YouTube, and our website.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Our Women’s Fellowship is once again planning a tea party!**

**“TEA BY THE SEA” will be held on Sunday, April 30th.**

**Flyers and tickets are available.**

**You will be seated as you arrive. Seating can be reserved ONLY by purchase of 8-10 tickets together.**

 Women’s Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday, March 14th at noon.

 Please bring your lunch, beverages and desserts will be provided.

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.*** Not only should we pray for the people we love, but also for those who hurt our feelings, even those we might consider enemies. This keeps us from becoming bitter. This helps us to be more compassionate for others and to forgive ourselves when we make mistakes.to return home.

**Prayer Requests from March 05, 2023**

Continued prayers for Dot Gallagher has she has more tests done

Carol Evans - short stay in the hospital this week, is home now and feeling better

Farol Jennings - continuing educations with zoom classes

Martha Korto had surgery on Monday is awaiting the biopsy report

Cocoa Lee - continuing problem with her eye.

Suzanne Turner having problems with her eyes

Diana has a hair line fracture on her ankle

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Zilpha and James Browne Dorothy Buzzard

Eva Baumgartel Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Patsy Coyne Rev. Khan Scott Meyer Marva Bob Patterson Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Wondor Korto Sylvia Spotts Suzanne Turner

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace

Prayers for our city and end to violence . Prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone

Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our Church!

As Pastor Randy will be retiring in July, we await the announcement of a new pastor to be assigned to our church. Please pray for the discernment of the cabinet as they select our new Pastor. Please also pray for our congregation that we move forward with joyful anticipation of these new beginnings.

**HEATER FUNDRAISER**

**WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL OF $25,000**

*We started this fundraiser in May 2022. We received a grant of $5,000 and a gift from Frankford Memorial UMC in the amount of $5,000. All other contributions made by our congregation and friends of Crescentville UMC totaled $ 15,010.* ***Thank you to all who contributed!!***

***Now we have another goal to reach –*** *our general funds are very low and it soon will be difficult to meet our ongoing expenses including utilities for our Parsonage and Church buildings, as well as salary for our Pastor.* ***PLEASE prayerfully consider raising your weekly monetary offering to help with our expenses.***

***Unsure if you are able to give more? Try taking a step up from your current giving, and if that goes well, take another step – you may find that you can give more that you thought possible.***

