**February 19, 2023**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**Pretzel Sunday**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Rev. Randy M. Brubaker, Pastor**

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*Moses, you might remember, was told that he couldn’t see God (Exodus 33:17-23). Yet, today, in Matthew’s gospel, we read that Jesus, with this same Moses as well as Elijah present with Him, was “transformed in front of [Peter, James, and John]. How wondrous it is that God would come to us in Jesus (remember, Emmanuel). And how, even more wondrous it is that Jesus would show His glory if but to a few of His closest disciples. Perhaps that is why Jesus told Peter, James, and John, “Don’t tell anybody about the vision until the Human One is raised from the dead.” - Pastor Randy*

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

***Transfiguration Sunday* *Pretzel Sunday* February 19, 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** *2 Peter 1*

 *We have not depended on made-up stories in making known to you the mighty coming of our Lord*

 *Jesus Christ. With our own eyes we saw his greatness. We were there when he was given honor*

 *and glory by God the Father, when the voice came to him from the Supreme Glory, saying,*

 *“This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased!” We ourselves heard this voice coming*

 *from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we are even more confident*

 *of the message proclaimed by the prophets. You will do well to pay attention to it, because it is like*

 *a lamp shining in a dark place until the Day dawns and the light of the morning star shines in your hearts.*

 **Opening Hymn** *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”* [VS. 1-3]# 185

 When morning gilds the skies my heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised!
 Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

 The night becomes as day when from the heart we say: May Jesus Christ be praised!
 The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear: May Jesus Christ be praised!

 Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!
 In heaven's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Holy God, upon the mountain You revealed our Messiah, who by His death and resurrection**

 **would fulfill both the law and the prophets. By His transfiguration, enlighten our path**

 **that we may dare to suffer with Him in the service of humanity and so share in the everlasting**

 **glory of Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever. Amen.**

**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

The Offertory *“Transfigure Us O Lord”* The Doxology *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” # 95*

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** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 1-3] #384

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 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling;
 all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit;
 let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

 Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never,
 nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 17:1-9*

 Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top

 of a very high mountain. **2**He was transformed ***in front of them***. His face shone like the sun,

 and his clothes became as white as light.

 **3**Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. **4**Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus,

 “Lord, it’s good that we’re here. If you want, I’ll make three shrines: one for you, one for Moses,

 and one for Elijah.”

 **5**While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said,

 “This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!”

 **6**Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe.

 **7**But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.”

 **8**When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

 **9**As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them,

 “Don’t tell anybody about the vision until the Human One is raised from the dead.”

 **Sermon** *”In Front of Them”*

 **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**  *“O Come and Dwell in Me”* # 388

O come and dwell in me, Spirit of power within,
and bring the glorious liberty from sorrow, fear, and sin.

Hasten the joyful day which shall my sins consume,
when old things shall be done away, and all things new become.

I want the witness, Lord, that all I do is right,
according to thy mind and word, well-pleasing in thy sight.

I ask no higher state; indulge me but in this,
and soon or later then translate to thine eternal bliss.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction**  *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 4] #384

 Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

 **Ash Wednesday is February 22nd.**

**Worship services that are available to you:**

 12:00 noon:  Frankford Memorial 1300 Dyre Street (Please RSVP)

 2:00 pm     Philadelphia Protestant Home 6400 Martins Mill Road

 7:00 pm Crescentville 412 E. Sentner Street

**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.

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



**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

*Model spiritual disciplines to our children*. Our children learn so much from

how we live. If we say that we follow God, but don’t make the Bible a priority

by reading it every day, our kids will realize it’s not really that important to us.

**February 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 - Psalm 51:1-17- 2

Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**February 26, 2023 - First Sunday in Lent**

Matthew 4:1-11- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 - Psalm 32 - Romans 5:12-19

Online Lenten devotions: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/>

**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*** Praying for others is not just a blessing, it’s also an essential part of the Christian life. It is a commandment to share our burdens with one another. Prayer for one another is one way to do this. Praying for others strengthens the bond we have with them and strengthens our relationship with God.

**Prayer Requests from February 12, 2023**

Dende Korpoi - recovering from shoulder surgery

Dot Gallagher - had health issues this week

Prayers for our City with today's super bowl celebrations.

Prayers for Haiti and for Jean Bernard as he works to bring his son to the US.

Mia's brother broke his arm, Mia's grandmom broke her leg. Prayers for recovery.

Prayers for the people of Turkey and Syria who are affected by the earthquake.

Joy - Majennah & Jean are celebrating their 17th wedding annv on the 16th.

Ruthie Dillion is not feeling well.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Eva Baumgartel Suzanne Turner

Zilpha & James Browne Dorothy Buzzard Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Patsy Coyne Rev. Khan Wondor Korto Marva Scott Meyer Bob Patterson Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Sylvia Spotts

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 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.

**We now have TWELVE** youth from Crescentville Church have begun preparing for church membership through Confirmation. Please pray for them and consider “adopting” one as someone you will commit to praying for and encouraging on their journey!

Christian Stefanescu Darryl Sutton Jacob Monbo

Joshua Bhatti Kelsey Sutton Marcus Sutton

Mariah Jean Marina Jean Maurice Sutton

Naiima Jabati Naomi Jabati Jahcuerie Sinclair

 **PRETZEL SUNDAY** Pretzels are a Lenten tradition in Christianity dating back to the early 600s. The first pretzel was an invention of an Italian Monk who was looking for a simple reminder to his brother monks that Lent is a time for prayer. So, fashioning a Lenten bread with only flour, water and salt (in those days people cooked without butter or oil during Lent), he rolled out the dough in strips. Then he gave the world the distinc¬tive pretzel shape by folding the strip of dough over itself, just as one would cross one's arms over the heart in a gesture of prayer. The bread was then baked as a soft bread, just like the big soft pretzels we have today.

In the shape of crossed arms, these little breads were called bracellae, the Latin word for "little arms." From this word came the German word bretzel, the root of our familiar word pretzel.

Today, we have pretzels as a reminder of the importance of prayer, of daily turning to our Lord this Lent so that we better prepare for the great events of Holy Week and the Easter celebration. Each pretzel is a delicious Lenten treat to remind us to turn to the Lord often and "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

**SOUPER BOWL FOOD DONATION CHALLENGE** - Last Sunday we collected 115 pounds of food items to meet the food collection challenge from the Missouri and Kansas UM Conferences. The Eagles played a great game and came up a little short, however, the **Conferences of Greater New Jersey and PA won the food challenge by collecting 74,044 pounds of food**. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to be in ministry with those who need food.