**February 25, 2024**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

**“Deny Myself?”**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***2nd Sunday in lent February 25, 2024***

**Welcome**

**Announcements & Birthdays (last page of bulletin)**

*Please stand*

 **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 The Greatest Love.**

Leader: Jesus said: I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch

that does not bear fruit he takes away and every branch that bears fruit, he

prunes that it may bear more fruit. Abide in me, a branch cannot bear fruit on its

own, so neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine and you are the

branches, And Jesus said: This is my commandment that you love one another

 just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than that one lay down his life

 for his friends. You are my friends. I chose you. The world said:

**People: Who gives you authority to do these things? Is it lawful to pay a tax to**

**Caesar or not?**

Leader: And the world lied and cheated,

**People: Plotted and schemed - To do away with the One**

Leader: Who would have chosen them,

**People: Who would have been their friend,**

Leader: Who loved them

**People: And would lay down his life for them.**

Leader: The days of Lent grow darker

**People: As the cross comes into focus,**

Leader: Where the One with the greatest love

**People: Laid down his life for us, his friends.**

(extinguish the flame on another purple candle.)

**Choral Response:** “More love to Thee, Oh Christ” (Vs 1) # 453

More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee... This is my earnest plea More love, oh Christ, to Thee More love to Thee, more love to Thee! More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Please be seated

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

**Jesus we confess that we have not always taken up our cross and followed you. Jesus, you prayed, “If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” And we pray the same thing. We don’t want to suffer. We don’t want to go to the cross. Jesus, but help us to understand what our walk with you is. We confess that we want to avoid sacrifice, but God, help us to make sacrifices if it will spread love to ourselves and to others. We confess that we aren’t as good at loving as you are. But we’re trying to get better. Jesus, help us to take up our cross, follow you, and love better and better each day. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

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

**Opening Worship Song**  “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song

This Cornerstone, this solid ground firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace when fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.

This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain:

Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me…

For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand

Till He returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand

Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Please Be Seated*

**Youth Message**

**Joys & Concerns …………….*Gathered Prayer***

***Singing of THE LORD'S PRAYER–***

*Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. 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**  *“Give Me thy Heart” Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

 **The 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.

**The Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

**Hymn** *“Take Up Thy Cross”* # 415

"Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."

Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

*Please be seated*

**Scripture Lesson**  Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**Sermon** *“Deny Myself?”*

*Please stand*

**\*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.

**Closing Hymn**  *“Where He Leads Me” [VS. 1-3] # 338*

I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,

I can hear my Savior calling, "Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

 Refrain: Where he leads me I will follow, where he leads me I will follow,

 where he leads me I will follow; I'll go with him, with him all the way.

 I'll go with him through the garden, I'll go with him through the garden,

 I'll go with him through the garden, I'll go with him, with him all the way. Refrain

 I'll go with him through the judgment, I'll go with him through the judgment,

 I'll go with him through the judgment, I'll go with him, with him all the way. Refrain

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction “***Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days” vs 1,4*

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide,

Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

 **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.***

People who dedicate part of their time to others have been found to have higher self-esteem and overall well being. The benefits of taking care of someone also depend on your consistency. So, the more regularly you pray for someone, the more confidence you’ll gain. Pray for others and improve your self-esteem.

**Prayer Requests From February 18th**

Elizer Diyaolu prayers for upcoming sinus procedure to be successful and devoid of any complications.

For the family of Virginia Rininsland, mother of Joan Potts. Ginnie died peacefullly on February 14th.

For the Sutton family - some family members have covid.

For the Jean Family - some family members have strep throat

Dale Keyser's brain tumor biopsy was not good news - prayers as he participates in clinical trials at Duke University

Traveling mercies for Paul Wilson

Happy 83rd birthday to John Wilson Sr

Eva Baumgartel is having a heart catheriztion on Monday

Kass Greenlaw is well and thanks us for our prayers.

Traveling mercies & happy birthday for Elsie

Prayers for the Kamara family - their daughter was laid to rest last week.

Prayers for the Kassor family.

Prayers for Gene Saloky's twin daughters as they have dental surgery this week.

Meghan Riley is finally home! She still has a long journey to wellness. We will keep her on our continuing prayer list.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Eva Baumgartel Dorothy Buzzard Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer

Cass Quigley Marva Meghan Riley

**For families, especially:**

Betty Sauerwald & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families Jiselle & Family

Zilpha and James Browne Jean Bernard and family The Spotts Family

Pastor Brendan Van Gorder & family

**For an end to violence, for peace** **and stability**

Philadelphia, especially our community - Sierra Leone, Africa

Haiti - Israel and Hamas - Ukraine and Russia

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

**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!

**Third Sunday in Lent - March 3, 2024**

John 2:13-22 - Exodus 20:1-17 - Psalm 19 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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| Tuesdays evenings during Lent Feb 20th thru March 19th  | Lenten Bible Study on ZoomWith Pastor Brendan 7:30 – 8:30 PM |
| Wednesday evenings during Lent Feb 21st thru Mar 20th  | Lenten Vesper Services at PPH6:30 PM |
| Sunday Feb 25th (after worship) | Women’s Fellowship MeetingsALL women are invited!  |
| Sunday March 24th | Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| Thursday, March 28th  | Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PMHoly Communion |
| Friday, March 29th  | Good Friday Worship 7:00 PMTenebrae Service |
| Sunday, March 31st  | Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generatedSunday, April 7th | The Snyders’ invite you to join themfor a **bowling party celebration**on Sunday, April 7th 1:30 – 4:30 PMat Pike Lanes,121 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966Please let the Snyder’s know if you plan to attend. |
| Sunday, April 28th  | “**Down The Aisle, Now & Then”**1:30 – 3:30 PM Admission $ 10.00**A wedding fashion show fundraiser**All are welcome to attend.Wedding fashion will includestyles from 1880 to 2024Refreshments will be servedafter the show. |

 Crescentville UMC Celebrates March Birthdays



03 Kass Greenlaw 13 Dot Gallagher

04 Tammy Murtha 13 Ludwig McEachnie

06 Suzanne Turner 15 Dende Korpoi

08 Bill Barry 20 Andrew Kamara

08 Abdulai Jah 20 Kathleen McAdoo

12 Marina Macauley Coker 24 Linda Pultro

 25 Brandon Whited

**BIRTHDAY RESPONSIVE READING**

**Celebrants: We thank God for the gift of life.**

People: We thank God for you whose birthdays we celebrate this March.

**Celebrants: Life is precious.**

People: We are grateful for all of you. May God bless you in this time and throughout all your days.

**All: We are glad that God has brought us together in this world. We are enriched by those who come into our lives, our families, our church, and our community. May we always be open to seeing God in others. May we always follow God’s leading into the future.**

**Celebrants: Thanks be To God for the gift of life.**

People: Thanks be to God for the gift of life. Amen.

**The Lenten Candles - The Crown Of Thorns Wreath**

 Lent is the season before Easter. It is in some ways the opposite of Advent. It is a sober season. It is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ's Passion Week.

 During Lent, we tune in to the dark days That got darker, and even darker And ended in Christ's death. They were days of Rejection and suffering, Conflict and betrayal, that ended with the extinguishing of the light of the Christ candle that was lit at Christmas.

 That light would be rekindled and lit again in each of us, but in these coming weeks, let us tune in to the darkening days of Lent, as we one by one extinguish the candles set before us, until on Good Friday, the flame on the Christ candle dies.