



Friendship Community Church
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February 2012 Newsletter

See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again. Mark 10:32-34

The gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus spoke of his suffering, death, and resurrection to his disciples at least 3 times before He actually began His passion. And each time His disciples did not quite understand what He was explaining. Perhaps things were going so well that the 12 did not want to consider that their beloved rabbi would suffer and die. Maybe they could not quite grasp how their teacher, who had cured people of their sicknesses and even walked on water, could come to such an awful end. And yet, Jesus knew Himself that He would have to suffer in order to fulfill His mission to save us from the evils of sin and hell. Only Jesus could fully grasp what was about to happen to Him, whether or not His followers could. Every year, I actually look forward to Lent and the 40 days of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. For us, the Church of Christ, this is the highest and holiest season of the year, more important than Christmas! This season forces us to remember all that Jesus endured for our sake...how He suffered and died to grant us God's forgiveness and to reconcile us to our heavenly Father. This is at the heart of what we believe, what the gospel is all about – Jesus' death and resurrection. To have faith and fail to spend time reflecting on how much Jesus went through to save us is to fail to grasp how personal this all is. God in the flesh in Jesus, God's Son, felt pain and anguish in order to free us from suffering for our own sins. How much more beautiful Jesus becomes to us as we contemplate what He went through for us in His suffering and death. How much more personal He becomes to us as we think about his death and resurrection! To not simply gloss over it, but to really spend time, even 40 days, reflecting on what Jesus' sacrifice means to us! I pray that you too will be moved deeply in your hearts this Lenten season as you begin this 40-day journey with Jesus and your church family. Your time spent preparing your heart, confessing your sins, seeking the Lord's forgiveness, looking for a new way of life, will not be time misspent. Come Easter, you will have a brand new outlook on your life. You will approach the Lord with a renewed faith and vigor as His disciple. And your Easter celebration will reach a new level of joy as you truly participate in Jesus' call to new life through His resurrection. May God bless you as you prepare your hearts!

Pastor Michele

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February Birthstone
Amethyst

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 7th
February 8th
February 22nd

Kira Comfort
Anthony Cirineo
Tom Repici



ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY

February 12th

Janice & Ken Elia



Days to Remember with Flowers

Don't forget to place your flower orders
to Celebrate Birthdays & Anniversaries
or
in memory of that special loved one!

The order form for is in the lobby on the table.

Just fill in the date you would like the flowers, your name
and address and the reason for the flowers.

The price of the flowers is \$25 and the florist will send
the bill to your home!



News and Events

Information on Events, Dates and News from Our Church.

January 2 nd	JHYG	6:30 PM
January 9 th	JHYG	6:30 PM
January 12 th	Worship Team	12:00 PM
January 14 th	Session	7:00 PM
January 16 th	JHYG	6:30 PM
January 23 rd	JHYG	6:30 PM
January 22 nd	Ash Wednesday Service	7:30 PM



OUTREACH MINISTRY INTO OUR COMMUNITY

Special thanks to those of you who helped us out on January 19th at School #2 to kickoff our School Outreach Ministry! We were blessed with a good turnout from our members, good food to share, and some very sound discussion about helping our families to grow closer together. Unfortunately, we were missing the families from the school we had invited. As you know, with something so new, it will take time to get it up and running, so please continue to hold this young ministry in your prayers!

Our next outreach dinner is Thursday, February 16th from 6:00-8:00pm at School #2. We will be needing a few families to join us again and a sign up sheet will be available after Sunday worship this month. We look forward to sharing the blessing of being out there for families who have needs!

Special Thanks

SPECIAL THANKS to all who made our Annual Congregational/Corporation Luncheon and Fellowship such a great event! We enjoyed the delicious food for our meal! We also want to thank our Corporation and Session leaders who have served this past year. We look forward to our new leaders in the upcoming year. Please continue to hold our leaders in your prayers as we seek to fulfill Jesus' mission in the world through Friendship Community Church in 2012!

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES are the best way for people to get to know one another and study Christian topics throughout the year. Each group helps us to grow in our faith together and to build up our church!

As we approach the season called Lent, 40 days of preparation for Holy Week and our celebration of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, we have a special study that we would like everyone to take advantage of. It's called ***THE 24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD***. This study will look at the Last Supper, Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate, and Jesus' crucifixion, among other portions of our Lord's final 24 hours before He died on the cross. It is a very appropriate study for us during Lent and will help us to discover more about Jesus and what He went through in the final day of His life.

There will be signup sheets in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We also want to start a couple of new groups meeting at new times to accommodate everyone. If there is a day/time that works for you, let us know and we'll plan to begin a new Friendship Circle that you can be a part of! Make this Lenten season a true experience of reflecting on the significance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection together!

JUNIOR HIGH

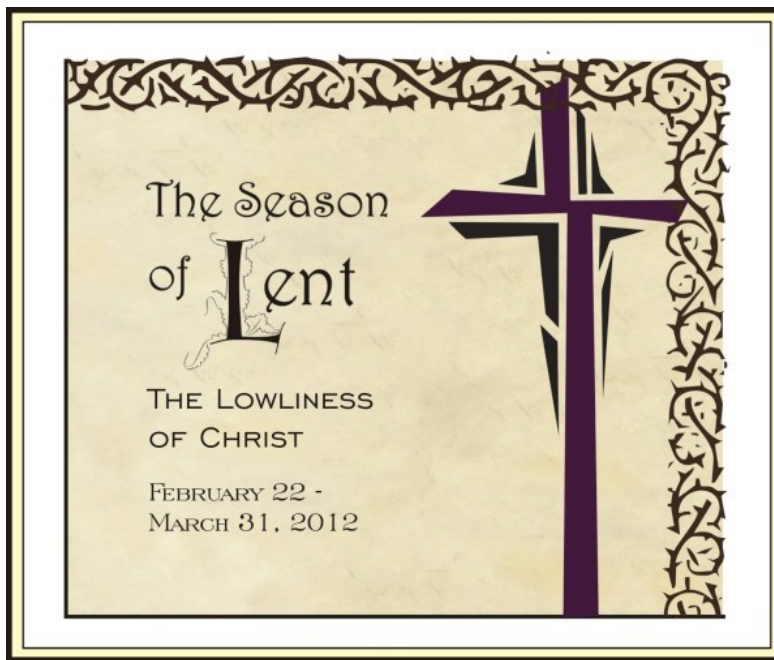


This month our Junior High Youth Group is sponsoring a special SNOW TRIP for anyone who'd like to come out and play in the snow!!!! If you'd like to ski, snow tube or snowboard or simply drink hot chocolate in the lodge, come and join us on Saturday, February 18th at Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie, PA. We plan to carpool from the church parking lot early that morning!

The signup sheet and display is in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please see Tom Repici or Ryan Deasy. We need 15 people to get the group discount rate, so bring a friend and suit up!!! Plan for a fun day on the slopes!



QUESTION: If Friendship Community Church put together a Mission Trip for this Summer, would you be interested in joining us? It will be open to people of all ages and we'll caravan together. We'll be working with a group who will supervise us and have arrangements already made so that all we have to do is show up to help people in need. If you think this is something you and/or your family (any ages!) would like to be a part of, see Pastor Michele. More details will be coming shortly!



This month marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is the 40-day period of preparing our hearts and our church for the celebration of what Jesus did for us through His death and resurrection. This season will begin this year on Wednesday, February 22nd, and as we do every year, we will be joining in the sanctuary for a special Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30pm. All are invited to gather for the beginning of this special season of reflection. We will worship and offer ashes to mark our foreheads, as a sign of our need for the Savior of Life who came to bring us forgiveness and new life through His sacrifice.

Pastor Michele will lead us in prayer and reflection with a message to begin these 40 days. She will also be preaching on the topic of forgiveness throughout Lent, to bring us to a deeper understanding of how much Jesus' forgiveness of our sins has an impact on our relationship with our heavenly Father and one another.

Plan to join us for all of the special worship services that will take place during Lent. We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30pm. Every Sunday's service will bring us closer to the cross. We will also have a special Sunday focus on Palm Sunday, April 1st. During Holy Week, we will reflect on The Lord's Supper during a special worship service that evening called Maundy Thursday, April 5th. We will reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and death during our Good Friday service on the night of April 6th. And we will start our Easter celebration on Sunday, April 8th! May you be blessed by our Lord as you make time this Lenten season to consider all that He has done for us sinners by His gracious love!



Look for Ways to Make Discipline Positive

You may be thinking, "Yes, I know discipline is supposed to be positive but how can I be positive when my kids are doing the wrong thing." Here are two practical ways you can make your discipline times a positive experience.

One way is to state rules and requests in positive terms. Instead of saying, "Don't shout," you might say, "We talk quietly in the store." Instead of "Stop being rough with the dog," you might say, "Be gentle." Instead of complaining about the clothes all over your daughter's room, you could say, "Remember to pick up your clothes and organize your room before you go out tonight."

It may take some work, but clearly stating or restating the rule in positive terms gives your child a clear picture of what you expect and keeps your interaction on a positive note. Give gentle, positive reminders to point your kids in the right direction.

A second way to be positive is to give children choices. Instead of saying, "Stop banging that drum," you could say, "You may play the drum outside or in your room." Or, "I've already said no to getting out the train set. You can either choose another activity or go outside to play for awhile." By keeping discipline positive you are training and teaching. Choices help children move in a more constructive direction. With older children you may ask "What's your plan for chores this weekend?" giving responsibility to your child.

Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

The first part of the verse describes a negative way of relating to children. Exasperate gives the impression of being harsh and causing discouragement. In place of that negative response, fathers are instructed to do something positive, bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. As parents, we don't want to discipline our kids to merely get rid of negative behaviors. The purpose of discipline is to train children and show them the positive direction they are to go.