



The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2023

March 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is here. Christianity Today says, “The season can be a beautiful and deeply moving experience of walking with Jesus to the cross.” Where did this practice begin? Why is it important?

The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word for “lengthen”, observing the lengthening of the days as we come into Spring. Well, that doesn’t sound very religious!

Why then was this time chosen? “As a moveable feast, the date of Easter is determined in each year through a calculation known as computus (Latin for 'computation'). Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after 21 March (a fixed approximation of the March equinox). Determining this date in advance requires a correlation between the lunar months and the solar year, while also accounting for the month, date, and weekday of the Julian or Gregorian calendar.” (Thanks Wikipedia!) That doesn’t sound very religious either!

As a matter of fact, it all sounds pretty man-made. And beloved, it is. But for this purpose:

Holy Week coincides with the Jewish celebration of Passover, the meal Jesus ate with his disciples before he was arrested and crucified. It is as close as we can get to the actual anniversary date that marks our redemption through Christ’s sacrifice.

Marking the road to the cross by the 40 days of Lent is one way we engage the spiritual practice of self-examination, by considering Jesus’ temptation and our own. The concept of “fasting” is a reflection of Jesus’ hunger and accompanying refusal to staves into bread during his 40 days in the wilderness. The intent is that as we hunger for whatever we’ve given up for Lent – bread, Facebook, arguing – that we would remember Christ’s sacrifice for us. The practice is not a “get to heaven” scheme. It is a tool for spiritual mindfulness as we use this time prior to Easter to go deeper with our Lord on the road to the cross.

Finally, Lent is 40 days. If you actually count the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, you will come up with 46 days. Wait a minute! With all that calculation the church fathers couldn’t count the days right?? No. Every Sunday is still a “little Easter”. Every Sunday is still the Lord’s Day. We are given a “day off” from our fast of – whatever you are doing – to refresh ourselves. (But if you’re giving up arguing for Lent, please don’t take the Sabbath off.)

Blessings on you for a spiritually meaningful Lent,

Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen Contact Information

1. My Sabbath is Friday. I will not pick up calls or answer texts or emails on Fridays unless it's an emergency. Please do leave a message so I will know if your concern is urgent.
2. My cell is **540-414-3193**. Please do call or text anytime Sunday through Thursday between 9am and 7pm. If I am not available, I will call you back as soon as I am.
3. EMERGENCIES call **any time**. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.
4. It is my intent to usually be in the office M, T, W from 9 to noon as we get started, do out visits in the afternoon, and have Thursday as a writing day – but this is not set in stone. I am HAPPY to make evening or weekend appointments for all of you who work! **My time will flex to accommodate you.**
5. If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled time with me.

Donna Kulesza, Church Administrator

I am in the office 8:00am-1:00pm Monday through Thursday. Please leave me a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything I can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to office@madisonpresbyterian.com.

* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *
* * * * *

2023 Flower Calendar
is posted
in the Narthex

Send flower dedications for the bulletin to
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
or call the office at (540)948-6972



Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James ([150298](#)) Synod: Mid-Atlantic ([150](#))

03.02.22-
04.17.22



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Providing **RELIEF**
from natural disasters,
FOOD for the hungry,
and **SUPPORT** for
the poor and oppressed.



MATTHEW 25

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected on **Sunday April 9th**. This is a 77 year old tradition that helps many people throughout the world. The offering is split three ways:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People partners with communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Please join with thousands across our Nation to help all those in need. You can help by writing a check and placing it in the envelope from the bulletin or join us in the Great Weigh-In by filling Gracie with your extra coins.

Breakfast Buzz

Friday March 17th 9:00 a.m.

“The Birds in Your Backyard”



Virginia Master Naturalists (VMN) are volunteer educators, citizen scientists and stewards helping Virginia conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. The **Old Rag Master Naturalist Chapter** serves Culpeper, Fauquier, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties. On March 17th members of **ORMN** will be presenting “**The Birds in Your Backyard**”. The presentation will talk about birds that Madison County residents have in their own yards, tools and techniques to help identify birds, how to attract birds to your yard, and opportunities to help birds continue to be a beautiful and important part of our community.

Join us for breakfast and enjoy a very interesting presentation.



Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

With that in mind...let us read a reflection by William Arthur Ward entitled Fasting and Feasting.

Lent should be more than a time of fasting. It should be a joyous season of feasting. Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. It is a season in which we should:

- Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.**
- Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.**
- Fast from thought of illness; feast on the healing power of God.**
- Fast from words that pollute; feast on the phrases that purify.**
- Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.**
- Fast from anger; feast on patience.**
- Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.**
- Fast from worry; feast on hope.**
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.**
- Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.**
- Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.**
- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.**
- Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.**
- Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.**
- Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.**



Greetings,

March is the month Madison county transfer station accepts prunings and yard waste without charging the usual fees. I would like to take advantage of this and suggest two Saturdays for cleaning up the church grounds. We won't be mulching at this time, just pruning and removing debris. Those of you who have "adopted" a portion of the church grounds may choose your own time, but for those who would like to work on Saturdays, I invite you to join me. We may accomplish all we wish on the first Saturday, or we may need the second to finish or due to weather. Please note these dates on your calendars:

Saturday March 11 and Saturday March 18, both at 9:00

Please bring your own tools; pick-up trucks and trailers are welcome. Bring your gardening questions, too.

Thank you,
Heidi

Sharing and Caring around MPC

Breakfast Buzz

February 17th



Sunday School

February 19th



February-March 2023

**Packing Boxes in the MPC
basement for distribution**

Counters March-May 2023

March 2023

Heidi Sage
Allan McLearn

April 2023

Dana Edelman
Art Pearson

May 2023

Nick Humphrey
Joyce Humphrey

The Card Group makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They will meet Friday, March 3rd, March 10th, March 24th, and March 31st in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

The Brown Bag Book Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Tack Room at 11:00am for lively discussions and follow with our brown bag (or whatever color you like) lunch. The current book is *"How Music Heals Us"* by Kim Cannan. We would love to include you in our sometimes wandering discussions. We have more interesting titles coming soon so stay tuned. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bobbie Carroll 540-948-9922.

CHOIR practices every Wednesday at 7PM

Bible Studies

Morning Bible Study

Thursdays at 10AM in the Tack Room

Evening Bible Study

Tuesdays at 6:30PM on Zoom

We are studying the Gospel of Matthew

All are welcome

Breakfast Buzz meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 9am

Session March 14, 6:30PM, Fellowship Hall

Stewardship Meeting March 16, 7:00, Sanctuary

Communion Servers and Pew Guide

Heidi Sage
John Quinley
Bobbie Carroll

Stewardship Team

The main function of the Stewardship Team is to make the congregation aware of the importance of stewardship. To explain that stewardship is not just about money, it is also time and talent. Another function of the team is to conduct an annual pledge drive. The team composes a letter to be mailed to the church family with pledge cards. The returned pledge cards allow the finance team to plan for the budget for the following year.

Stewardship Team meets 3 to 5 times a year. We decide on a theme at the beginning of the year for that year. There are quarterly or month announcements at church based on our theme, we call these: A Minute for Stewardship. There is a function planned for late spring early summer. In the past we have had a picnic in the fellowship hall with grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and members of the congregation bringing a dish. We have also planned a function in the fall to kick off the annual pledge season. At one time it was a chili dinner and talent show.

There is always room on the team for more members and new ideas on how to inspire the congregation. Any questions you can ask Sharon Weakley, Kim Barnes, Bill Pattie or Mary King.

Come join us!!

Bel Canto
PRESENTS

If I Loved You

Richard Carr, Director

Friday, March 10 – 7:00 P.M.
Trinity United Methodist Church
Orange, Virginia

Saturday, March 11 – 7:00 P.M.
Piedmont Episcopal Church
Madison, Virginia

Free Admission Donations Appreciated




Social Services Needs

March Foods of the Month

Families: Canned vegetables and fruit, soup, rice, dried beans, hot and cold cereals, packages of macaroni and cheese, crackers.

Please place your donations in the big red container in the Fellowship Hall.

Items will be distributed by
Madison Social Services

to help our neighbors in need.



Wanted.....

**People willing to be a part of the
Loaves and Fishes team.**

Are you looking for something important to do 1 or 2 times a month? We would like to add delivery people. These people need to be able to lift and carry approximately 30 lbs. from the basement to their vehicle (an SUV is helpful). And then deliver to the Boys and Girls Club. We would also like to add people with a Sam's, BJ's, or Costco membership. Again, there is lifting and carrying involved. If you'd like more info please talk to Mary Haught or Bobbie Carroll.

The Christian Education Team is in need of Sunday school teachers. Assistance and curriculum will be provided. If you can only serve 1 or 2 Sundays every month or every other month that's fine. Please prayerfully consider serving. If you are interested, contact Bobbie Carroll, Jane Lamar, Mary Linda McLearn, or Cindy Pattie.





Save the Date! May 6, 2023

Friends, it is that time of year again! Dust off your work gloves and join your church family in service to our community at Madison Day 2023 on May 6, 2023. We have participated as a church for the past several years cleaning up the outside at MESA and helping landscape a local house. Who knows what adventures await this year?! New this year, they will offer special projects and activities for children so the entire family can put love into action through service! Children ages 4-10 will have the opportunity to be part of Madison Day 2023. It's never too early to show your children the joy of volunteering.

Sign up online at <https://www.madisondayva.com/get-involved> (scroll all the way down!) and make sure to note your team as "Madison Presbyterian Church". Also, please email Donna (office@madisonpresbyterian.com) and Clarissa (clarissa.berry@gmail.com) to make sure we have you on our list, too!

Join the Facebook Event, too! <https://www.facebook.com/events/3367393843587905/?ref=newsfeed>

Mission of the Month

At the Mission Team Meeting in January, the team decided to take a new approach to our Missions giving for 2023. Our budgeted giving to the Presbytery will be sent in automatically quarterly to ensure they have ample opportunity to use those funds. In the past, our other budgeted giving has been divided up at the end of the year with a focus on local organizations.

This year, we plan to have a Mission of the Month. Each month, the Missions Team will spotlight an organization/volunteer opportunity that our church family might be interested in learning more about and/or directly supporting. By giving of our time and talents throughout the year to reach those in our community we hope will be beneficial to both our church AND our community.

Our first Mission of the Month is the Madison Literacy Council. The Madison Literacy Council provides more than just learning basic literacy! They assist with GED preparation and technological literacy--teaching us all how to better use our computers and smartphones! More information about their programs is available here: <https://madisonliteracy.org/>. We will have a "Minute for Mission" prior to worship on Sunday, March 5th, with Fay Utz speaking on behalf of the Madison Literacy Council.

Do you have an organization our Church should recognize and support? Please pass on your suggestions to the Missions Team! Either leave a note in the donation box or contact one of our members. You can reach Clarissa at clarissa.berry@gmail.com or 540-718-0000. We hope to have a "Minute for Mission" speaker the first Sunday of each month.





March Birthdays

Bill Pattie 03/04
Heidi Rees 03/06
Allan McLearn 03/07
Sharon Weakley 03/09
Sandra Powell 03/12
Susan Strahan 03/16
Bettie Berry 03/17
Mary Hankla 03/17
Rachel Strahan 03/21
Joyce Humphrey 03/22
Wilma Myers 03/23
Cindy Pattie 03/25



March Anniversaries

George & Bobbie Carroll 03/07
Nick & Joyce Humphrey 03/26
Valerie & Jose Cruz 03/29

On Communion Sundays,
the first Sunday of each month,
the outside ring is Wine,
the inside is Juice



Thank you for helping us attain our goal of collecting and recycling one thousand (1,000.00) pounds of film plastic. Now we will individually continue taking our plastic to Food Lion or any box store with collection bins available and hope you will do the same.

The Madison Garden Club



Madison Presbyterian Church
1236 Fishback Road
Madison, VA 22727
540.948.6972
www.madisonpresbyterian.com

Church Administrator: Donna Kulesza
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
Pastor: Karen Allamon
pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 1:00



MARCH 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Book Club 11am Choir Practice 7pm	2 Bible Study 10am	3 Card Group 10am	4
5 Worship 10am Communion AA 5:30	6	7 Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm	8 Pres Women 10am Choir Practice 7pm	9 Bible Study 10am	10 Card Group 10am	11 Outdoor Clean Up HFA Basement
12 Daylight Saving Worship 10am AA 5:30	13 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	14 Session 6:30pm	15 Book Club 11am MC Woman's Club 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	16 Bible Study 10am Garden Club 11-4:30 MC WC 4:00 Stewardship 7PM	17 Breakfast Buzz 9am MC Woman's Club 8-1 Basement	18 Outdoor Clean Up HFA Basement
19 Worship 10am AA 5:30	20	21 Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm	22	23 Bible Study 10am	24 Card Group 10am	25
26 Worship 10am AA 5:30	27 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	28 Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm	29	30 Bible Study 10am	31 Card Group 10am	

Second Sunday in Lent—March 5 Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

Third Sunday in Lent—March 12 Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1–11 John 4:5–42

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 19 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8–14 John 9:1–41

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 26 Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6–11 John 11:1–45