



# The Grapevine

## Our Mission:

To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

## Editor's Note:

With the season of Lent now upon us we also begin to welcome spring and yes, I am ready for sunny days and milder weather and longer days! The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lenthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. As we journey through Lent may your focus be on your relationship with God, may you all grow as disciples this season in joyful anticipation of the Resurrection and may your spirituality **lengthen** and grow.

In Christian Love Petra

## PRAYER

Dear God of our whole selves, As we journey through this season of Lent, teach us how to give, so that we can joyfully respond when you call us to serve. Teach us how to pray, so that we can be closer to you in all that we do throughout the day. Teach us how to let go, so nothing can stand in the way of our connection with you. Teach us how to prepare, so we can be ready to receive your love, wisdom, and



## Monthly

## Scriptures :

### March 6 :

Luke 4:1-13

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

### March 13:

Luke 13:31-35

Psalm 27

### March 20 :

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Psalm 63:1-8

### March 27 :

Luke 9:28-43

Psalm 32

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## Pastor Ken's Corner

(Luke 13:31-35)

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

We are zipping through this year. It's March already. Lent and Easter are later in the year than usual when our Christian year advances from the somber reminder of just what our salvation cost Jesus (LENT) and then into the expectant joy of our Christian faith (EASTER) and the rewards of our faith and joy.

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jesus came to accomplish the wonderous and costly tasks the Father had set for Him on earth: proclaim the Good News, perform miracles that fulfill the things the prophets had foretold that the Messiah would do, and His ultimate sacrifice in Jerusalem and His triumph over the grave ...for the world. He declared to all the rulers in the Temple and in Jerusalem that He was on a mission and that He would not be deterred from accomplishing that mission fully!

<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'

He told the Apostles and the Disciples what was going to happen to Him. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem would only be one small part of His story and accomplishments.

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with the imposition of ashes at the Church at noon. We will conduct a five-session Lenten Bible Study starting on Wednesday, March 9, at 2 p.m. The study by **Susan Robb** is entitled **Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross**.

As we look to the coming season of Lent, marked by our repentance, worship, acts of contrition and devotional studies and culminating in Jesus' sacrifice and His glory on Easter Morning, let us together focus our faith in Jesus and our Kingdom service to the will of Jesus which is to preach and teach the Good News of Christ.

We should be mindful of Jesus' teachings and lessons and examples, **just as his disciples were**, and follow His lead as He is the way, the truth and the life that leads to the everlasting! Use Him as a pathway for your Lenten and Easter service.

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**I want to remind you once again of our goals for the coming weeks and months.**

**Our first goal** is to maintain our **connection** with our community regardless of how difficult it might become due to COVID restrictions. We do this through bake sales, spaghetti dinners, and food pantries including the Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry. These are great opportunities for all of us to get involved in some way, including praying for those in need of food.

We will continue our involvement in our community.

We will continue to innovate and use new technologies to worship.

Our last-Sunday-of- the- month Gospel Sing will begin again in March.

**Our second goal** is to continue be flexible and innovative when it comes to finding ways, locations, methods and opportunities to be worshipful and to remain connected as we deal with all the COVID restrictions, and yet maintain safety.

This congregation has been so resilient throughout the pandemic. In spite of difficult challenges we have still worshipped together, we have continued to lift our voices in praise together and we have served our community together. Terry and I are happy to be part of YOUR ministries at Clarksbury.

**The Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, (rain or shine)** from 9 to 11 a.m. We always have room for more help. Come and see how this works. Be prepared for whatever weather we get.

COVID restrictions and protocols are relaxed but many still remain, and we must keep in mind that the threat has not been eliminated. For some, the risks of COVID are very real and very present. We continue to lift up in our prayers those who are at risk and still under many restrictions.

Our Post-COVID Re-Entry Group (PRG) came up with a Mitigation Assistance Plan and we will continue using that plan. We will continue to monitor the local situation and, as necessary, make adjustments.

We want to acknowledge the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** each month. These groups provide meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and phone calls to many of our members as well as individuals at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to explore new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

Let us continue to pray for the people who may encounter COVID-19 and are exposed to or suffer from the illness.

**Peace & Grace, Pastor Ken**

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### LAY LEADER — WARREN WRIGHT

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. In Western churches, it begins on Ash Wednesday. During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection, Christians who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast, or to give up something—a habit, like smoking, watching TV, swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate, or coffee. Some Christians also take on a Lenten discipline, like reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God. Strict observers of Lent do not eat meat on Fridays, often opting for fish instead. The goal of these spiritual disciplines is to strengthen the faith of the observer and develop a closer relationship with God.

#### **The Significance of 40 Days**

The 40-day period of Lent is based on two episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible: the 40 years of wilderness wanderings by the Israelites after the exodus from Egypt (Numbers 33:38 and Deuteronomy 1:3) and the Temptation of Jesus after he spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

In the Bible, the number 40 holds special significance in the measurement of time, and many other important events revolve around it. During the flood, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6). Moses fasted on the mountain for 40 days and nights before God gave the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:18; 34:28; Deuteronomy 9). The spies spent 40 days in the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:25; 14:34). The prophet Elijah traveled for 40 days and nights to reach the mountain of God in Sinai (1 Kings 19:8).

#### **Lent in Western Christianity**

In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Technically 46, as Sundays are not included in the count). Officially named "Day of Ashes," the exact date changes every year because Easter and its surrounding holidays are movable feasts.

In the Catholic church, adherents attend mass on Ash Wednesday. The priest distributes ashes by lightly rubbing the sign of the cross with ashes onto the worshippers' foreheads. This tradition is meant to identify the faithful with Jesus Christ. In the Bible, ashes are a symbol of repentance and death. Thus, observing Ash Wednesday at the start of the Lenten season represents one's repentance from sin as well as Jesus Christ's sacrificial death to set followers free from sin and death.

#### **Lent in Eastern Christianity**

In Eastern Orthodoxy, the spiritual preparations begin with Great Lent, a 40-day period of self-examination and fasting (including Sundays), which starts on Clean Monday and culminates on Lazarus Saturday. Ash Wednesday is not observed.



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Clean Monday falls seven weeks before Easter Sunday. The term "Clean Monday" refers to cleansing from sinful attitudes through the Lenten fast. Lazarus Saturday occurs eight days before Easter Sunday and signifies the end of Great Lent.

## Do All Christian Observe Lent?

Not all Christian churches observe Lent. Lent is mostly observed by the Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations, and also by Roman Catholics. Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Orthodox Easter.

The Bible does not mention the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

The account of Jesus' death on the cross, or crucifixion, his burial, and his resurrection, or raising from the dead, can be found in the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

## History of Lent

Early Christians felt the importance of Easter called for special preparations. The first mention of a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for Easter is found in the Canons of Nicaea (AD 325). It is thought that the tradition may have grown from the early church practice of baptismal candidates undergoing a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for their baptism at Easter. Eventually, the season evolved into a period of spiritual devotion for the whole church. During the initial centuries, the Lenten fast was very strict but relaxed over time.



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Reprinted from Britannica at <https://www.britannica.com/biography/SaintPatrick>

St. Patrick, (flourished fifth century, Britain and Ireland; feast day Mar. 17), patron saint and national apostle of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and probably responsible in part for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons. He is known only from two short works, the *Confessio*, a spiritual autobiography, and his "Letter to Coroticus," a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. LIFE Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. At age 16 he was torn by Irish raiders from the villa of his father, Calpornius, a deacon and minor local official, and carried into slavery in Ireland. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which he turned with fervor to his faith. Upon dreaming that the ship in which he was to escape was ready, he fled his master and found passage to Britain. There he came near to starvation and suffered a second brief captivity before he was reunited with his family. Thereafter, he may have paid a short visit to the Continent. The best known passage in the *Confessio* tells of a dream, after his return to Britain, in which one Victorinus delivered him a letter headed "The Voice of the Irish." As he read it, he seemed to hear a certain company of Irish beseeching him to walk once more among them. "Deeply moved," he says, "I could read no more." Nevertheless, because of the shortcomings of his education, he was reluctant for a long time to respond to the call. Even on the eve of reembarkation for Ireland he was beset by doubts of his fitness for the task. Once in the field, however, his hesitations vanished. Utterly confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. In diplomatic fashion he brought gifts to a kinglet here and a lawgiver there but accepted none from any. On at least one occasion, he was cast into chains. On another, he addressed with lyrical pathos a last farewell to his converts who had been slain or kidnapped by the soldiers of Coroticus. Careful to deal fairly with the non-Christian Irish, he nevertheless lived in constant danger of martyrdom. The evocation of such incidents of what he called his "laborious episcopate" was his reply to a charge, to his great grief endorsed by his ecclesiastical superiors in Britain, that he had originally sought office for the sake of office. In point of fact, he was a most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped "idols and unclean things" had become "the people of God." The phenomenal success of Patrick's mission

is not, however, the full measure of his personality. Since his writings have come to be better understood, it is increas-

ingly recognized that, despite their occasional incoherence, they mirror a truth and a simplicity of the rarest quality. Not since St. Augustine of Hippo had any religious diarist bared his inmost soul as Patrick did in his writings. As D.A. Binchy, the most austere critical of Patrician (i.e., of Patrick) scholars, put it, "The moral and spiritual greatness of the man shines through every stumbling sentence of his 'rustic' Latin." It is not possible to say with any assurance when Patrick was born. There are, however, a number of pointers to his missionary career having lain within the second half of the fifth century. In the Coroticus letter, his mention of the Franks as still "heathen" indicates that the letter must have been written between 451, the date generally accepted as that of the Franks' irruption into Gaul as far as the Somme River, and 496, when they were baptized en masse. Patrick, who speaks of himself as having evangelized heathen Ireland, is not to be confused with Palladius, sent by Pope Celestine I in 431 as "first bishop to the Irish believers in Christ." Toward the end of his life, he retired to Saul, where he may have written his *Confessio*. It is said that an angel conveyed to him that he was to die at Saul, the site of his first church, despite his wishes to die within the ecclesiastical metropolis of Ireland. His last rites were administered by St. Tussach (also spelled Tassach or Tassac). LEG- ENDS Before the end of the 7th century, Patrick had become a legendary figure, and the legends have continued to grow. One of these would have it that he drove the snakes of Ireland into the sea to their destruction. Patrick himself wrote that he raised people from the dead, and a 12th-century hagiography places this number at 33 men, some of whom are said to have been deceased for many years. He also reportedly prayed for the provision of food for hungry sailors traveling by land through a desolate area, and a herd of swine miraculously appeared. Another legend, probably the most popular, is that of the shamrock, which has him explain the concept of the Holy Trinity, three persons in one God, to an unbeliever by showing him the threeleaved plant with one stalk. Traditionally, Irishmen have worn shamrocks, the national flower of Ireland, in their lapels on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.



# THE GRAPEVINE

## Ministries:

### UMM

The UMM's next regular monthly business meeting will be on Monday March 28th at 7 PM. At this meeting, the men will be planning their Spring season activities. Remember there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

### Nurture

Betty Johnson is still in rehab at Dockside. Her cell number is: (804)684-3618. She is in room 504 and would love a visit or phone call. You can send mail to :  
Betty Johnson Rm 504  
c/o Dockside Health and Rehab Ctr.  
74 Mizpah Road  
Locust Hill, VA 23092

### NURTURE & OUTREACH

***"One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone."***

*Shannon L. Alder.*

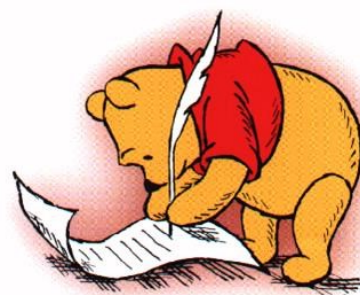
This will be our theme for 2022. We did great job last remembering our church family, residents at Fishing Bay Estates and community residents during the pandemic. Let's continue this year remembering them with calls, cards and drive by visits.

***"Pray as though everything depends on God. Work as though everything depends on you".***

Saint Augustine

The day the Lord  
created hope was probably the  
same day He created spring.

---Bernard Williams



Myrtle Clark 10/2  
P.O. Box 302  
Deltaville, VA 23043

Lewis Musick  
6023 Dixon Lane  
Gloucester, Va., 23061

Marion Miller 08/06  
c/o Commonwealth Senior Living @  
Gloucester House 7657 Meredith Drive  
Gloucester, VA 23061

Pastor Jim Salmon 5/24  
26306 Mattaponi Trail  
Milford, VA 22514

# THE GRAPEVINE

## Ministries and ETC:

### SOUP AND WARMING



At the request of our soup ministry recipients, soup was not delivered during June, July, and August. We have now started our third Monday-of-the-month in September. We currently deliver only once a month because we now deliver groceries from the Cryer Center Mobile food pantry the first Saturday of each month to our recipients. If you would like to make some homemade soup for our recipients, just let one of the committee members listed above know. Four soup containers (quart size) are provided, make any variety, and return your soup to the church.

Our warming tree ministry and coat rack ministry will be available the first Saturday of each month beginning the first Saturday in November through the first Saturday of March. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be putting a table outside with the warming items, weather permitting, otherwise, you may contact Pastor Ken and he will be able to help you obtain the needed warming items. If you would like to provide any of these warming items, our warming tree will be in the fellowship hall for you to place your items.

#### Church Service Assistants for the month of March

##### Ushers:

*Emily Farmer and Paulette Topping*

##### Scripture Reader:

Eileen Crittenden

##### Counters:

*Emily Farmer and Warren Wright*

*Open Hearts Open Minds  
Open Doors*

Deadline for the April Newsletter is  
Friday, March 25!

Please send your emails and  
articles to [pwalian2@gmail.com](mailto:pwalian2@gmail.com) for  
inclusion in the newsletter.

**Follow us on**

**Facebook!**

**Check out our**

**Website**

<b>Annual Budget 2022 Operating Funds</b>	<b>120,298.00</b>
<b>Total Received for Operating Funds 02/27</b>	<b>17,539.00</b>
<b>Total Needed by February</b>	<i>To be updated</i>



# THE GRAPEVINE

*Clarksbury has Fun!*



**Food Pantry Day!**



## Church Leadership:

### *Spiritual Leader:*

Ken Cleveland  
(276) 224-4935  
kencleveland@vaumc.org

### *Church Council Chair:*

Lee White  
(804) 832-9450  
leewhite0105@gmail.com

### *Director of Music:*

Becky Wilhite  
(804) 832-2003  
bwilhite4@verizon.net

### *Lay Leader:*

Warren Wright  
(804) 241-5686  
wright@va.metrocast.net

### *Financial Secretary:*

Suzanne Ramsburg  
(804) 815-6989  
ssramsburg@va.metrocast.net

### *Trustees Committee Chair:*

Don Bartz  
(804) 338-4872  
dbartz@gmail.com

### *Worship Committee Chair:*

Dave Dobson  
(757) 619-2444  
ddobson67@gmail.com

### *Nurture & Outreach Chair:*

Jerry Dant  
(804) 776-6975  
jerryd1935@msn.com

### *Recording Secretary:*

Betty & Carl Tate  
B: (804) 347-2461  
C: (804) 916-9969

# THE GRAPEVINE

## *March Power of Prayer*

### A Prayer for St. Patrick's Day

(Oh, "Faith & Begorrah"\* use it Every Day!)

May God give you. . .

For every storm, a rainbow,

For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,

And a blessing in each trial,

For every problem life sends,

A faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, a sweet song,

And an answer for each prayer.

Amen

\*A kind of amalgam of two phrases. The first was used to precede some strong assertion and would have translated as something like "By my Faith. ."(meaning by my Christian religion)  
The second part (Begorrah) probably originated as being reluctant to say "By God. .", the common people said something like "by Gor" pronouncing it "Be Gor", which in time became "Begorrah"

April 2022

SU	M	T	W	T	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



# The Grapevine

## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>Cryer Food Pantry 9-11</i>
6	7 <i>Linda Dobbins</i>	8	9 <i>Bible Study Seven Words 2-3pm</i>	10	11	12 <i>Alison Crittenden Chuck Banker</i>
13	14 <i>Peggy Vaudt</i>	15	16 <i>Ronnie Teagle Bible Study Seven Words 2-3pm</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>Corey Buchanan</i>	21	22	23 <i>Bible Study Seven Words 2-3pm</i>	24	25	26 <i>Mark White</i>
27	28 <i>April Mauney UMM 7pm</i>	29 <i>Linda Davis</i>	30 <i>Bible Study Seven Words 2-3pm</i>	31		

March *Birthdays* (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)