



## Passing of Friendship Pads

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Jesus, I Come* *Moore*  
Jamie Gaffga

## Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading James 1:2-5 (p.1880)

Sermon **Following Jesus**  
**In The Wilderness: Testing** **Steve Weed,**  
Pastor

Hymn #530 *Be Still My Soul* *Finlandia*

## Benediction

Prayer Ministry 9:00am John Kennedy  
10:45am John Furlong

**Unbound:** From time to time we all experience obstacles to knowing the peace of Christ in our daily lives. Unbound is a ministry that helps us find the joy and freedom that Jesus desires for us. Personal prayer sessions are available on Sundays at 10:45 am with Gene and Becky McGee and on Wednesday evenings with Dana and Maria Kaminstein at 7 pm. Sessions available by appointment only. Contact Gene (267-446-9598), Becky (215-287-3844), Dana (610-247-4825), Maria (610-247-4927).

## March 7<sup>th</sup>: Teen Anxiety, the Family and the Church

It is not a new statement to say that being a teenager in today's world is difficult, but it is also the same for that of being a parent. There are new variables and new stresses that did not exist 50 years ago. That being said, in recent weeks there have been a few tragedies that have shaken the local schools. Teenage stress and anxiety seem to be at a high, if not chronic, level and it is easy to resign to the thought that, "we can't do anything about it." On this evening we will chat through some of these difficulties, consult the recent research on youth development, strategize supports for the family, and discuss how the Church can come alongside and be a partner in all of this. Plan to join us **Wednesday, March 7th from 7:00-8:30 in the gym.** This event is open for parents of teens and children and is certainly open to the community. Child care will be provided.

## RESOURCES FOR LENT

In *A Cry for Mercy*, Henri Nouwen describes the season of Lent as a time “during which winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance.” Nouwen reminds us that “God’s mercy is greater than our sins,” and that we may seek Him accordingly. Lent offers us the opportunity to come out of the places of winter or darkness in our lives into God’s light and love.

Jesus opened his public ministry with the words, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Repent—turn around—reconsider how you are living. Lent is an invitation to do so, and to return to the One who waits to be gracious to each of us. In doing so, we say with John the Baptist, “He (Christ) must increase, but I must decrease.” With hopeful joy as we journey towards Good Friday and Easter, consider some of the following resources.

**Sermon series:** Pastor Steve’s preaching focus for Lent and Easter will have us Following Jesus.

**Daily readings:** *Preparing for Easter: Fifty Devotional Readings from C.S. Lewis*. Selections from Lewis’ writings paired with Scripture passages to help the reader prepare to celebrate the “grand miracle” Jesus accomplished through the cross.

*On the Way to the Cross: 40 Days with the Church Fathers* by Thomas Oden and Joel Elowsky. Jesus’ life seen in the Gospel of John and writings of the church fathers.

**Online prayer guide:** *Praying Lent 2018*—a Creighton University online ministry <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/> (or google “Praying Lent 2018”) A daily guide of prayers, scripture readings and written reflections from this respected Catholic source.

**Scripture focus:** Read and meditate on the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem, sacrifice at the cross, and triumph of Easter as found in Matthew (chapters 21-28), Mark (ch 11-16), Luke (ch 19:28 – 24:53), and John (ch 12-20).

**Habits of compassion, justice and peace:** Sacrifice time, treasure and talent to express God’s love for others. Join Jennifer Bonovitz ([jmbonovitz@gmail.com](mailto:jmbonovitz@gmail.com)) as she and others feed the homeless; exhibit God’s love for orphans and children in need by “adopting” a child through Compassion International or World Vision; expand your awareness of the evils of human trafficking; pursue personal reconciliation using the guidelines set forth by Ken Sande and Kevin Johnson in *Resolving Everyday Conflict*.

**Other resources:** Read a 20<sup>th</sup>-century Christian classic you’ve always meant to get to: *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster or *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis; align your heart more closely with the heart of God with David Benner’s *Desiring God’s Will*; journey with Jerry Sittser through *A Grace Disguised* to see how the soul can grow through loss; deepen your understanding of God’s heart for justice by examining Tim Keller’s *Generous Justice*, Gary Haugen’s *Good News about Injustice* or Richard Stearns’ *The Hole in our Gospel*.

# FAMILY MINISTRY: CHILDREN, YOUTH & PARENTS

## Family Ministry: Children, Youth & Parents

### Children

#### 9:00 Worship Service

2's & 3's - 9:00 am: Gospel Light, Blue Door Room downstairs

4's & 5's - 9:00 am: Gospel Light, Red Door Room downstairs

Grades K-5 - 9:00 am: Lent & Easter Gym

#### 10:45 Worship Service

2 to 5 year olds - 10:45 am: Gospel Light, Red Door Room downstairs

Grades K-5 - 10:45 am: Lent & Easter Gym

**\*Save The Date\*** VBC - June 18 through June 22! 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

If you are interested in volunteering please email Danielle

[dkauffman@narberthpres.org](mailto:dkauffman@narberthpres.org)

Friday, March 2 - Parents Night Out!

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### Youth

#### Grades 6-12:

- 9:30am Youth Sunday School
- 10:30am Confirmation Class
- 7:00-9:00pm Middle School YG on 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays
- 4:00pm Sunday HS Youth Group

#### **Current Events: Parent Night, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm**

#### **Teen Anxiety, the Family and the Church**

It is not a new statement to say that being a teenager in today's world is difficult, but it is also the same for that of being a parent. There are new variables and new stresses that did not exist 50 years ago. However, in recent weeks there have been a few tragedies that have shaken the local schools. Teenage stress and anxiety seem to be at a high, if not chronic, level and it is easy to resign to the thought that, "we can't do anything about it." On this evening we will chat through some of these difficulties, consult the recent research on youth development, strategize supports for the family, and discuss how the Church can come alongside and be a partner in all of this. From 7-8:30pm, this event is open for parents of teens as well as children and is certainly open to any non-members.

For all youth-related questions, please contact John Chaffee 610-664-4880 x112

[jchaffee@narberthpres.org](mailto:jchaffee@narberthpres.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † The annual **Women's World Day of Prayer** service will be held on Friday, March 2nd (10am), at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Bryn Mawr. Women around the world will be gathering, praying and making new or renewed commitments to care for God's Creation, including its precious people, as our response to God's great love and kind care for all he has created. Sign-up in the Chapel!
- Please join Christian women from up and down the Main Line in this ecumenical celebration of informed prayer and prayerful action. The service was written by the women of Suriname, a small country in South America. These sisters in Christ invite us to explore and respond in gratitude to the Lord, to the challenges of climate change, natural disasters and pollution in their country, and in ours. Bethel A.M.E. is located at 50 S. Merion Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010. Refreshments will be served! Do you have questions? Contact Debbie Watson at [dwatson@narberthpres.org](mailto:dwatson@narberthpres.org) or 610-664-4880 (x114).

### **2 upcoming Retreat Options:**

- † **“A Day Away” – personal retreat at St. Raphaela Retreat Center.** **Wednesday, April 11th** from 9:30 am-3:00 pm (\$25.00 cost includes morning snack and cold lunch) Registration forms are available in the Chapel. Contact person: Jean McIntire 610-304-3929.
- † **Connect with God** - If you would like to spend some quality time with the creator of the universe, there is no better place than the Jesuit Retreat Center in Wernersville. We invite you to a weekend of prayerful silence and reflection that will refresh and renew your soul. Arrive anytime on **Friday April 20 and return Sunday April 22 about 3pm.** Cost of \$150 covers private room and meals. No experience necessary. Contact Dave Bellamy at [dbellamy@narberthpres.org](mailto:dbellamy@narberthpres.org) or [610-659-2063](tel:610-659-2063) for more information. Register at [www.narberthpres.org](http://www.narberthpres.org). Registration deadline is April 2.
- † **Sunday Morning Curbside Cafe:** "Come & See" is our theme for Curbside Cafe 2018. With a regular presence outside the church, we seek to invite our neighbors to *come and see* the love of Jesus through our simple hospitality, prayers, and intentional conversation. So we invite you, too, to join us and *come and see* for yourselves from **10:45-11:45 a.m.** on Windsor Avenue.
- † **Please join the Tuesday morning prayer group for “Journey To The Cross”,** a prayer plan for Lent. 11:00am-Noon in the Parlor each Tuesday. All are welcome. Led by Faithe Hornung.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## † **Young Adult Fellowship!**

Now meeting every other Friday night with a variety of social activities and service projects and pot-luck dinners. Next gathering is Friday night, March 9 at 7:30pm. Contact person: Mike Boccasini (631-487-2827).

† **Children's Lenten Offering** - Beginning Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, the children will be participating in a special Lenten Offering to support Narberth Community Food Bank. We are collecting personal care items through Sunday, April 1st (Easter Sunday). All items can be left in the Lenten Offering Boxes found on the stage in the gym. All are invited to participate!

**Items Needed: Shampoo, Hair conditioner, Dental floss, Mouthwash, Toilet paper, Bar soap, Deodorant, Dish soap, Scrub sponges, Brillo**

† **Parents, please visit the book table in the chapel and check out some new additions to the Children's Library** and some Oldies but Goodies such as *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle which will be a film coming to theatres soon. Please check your homes for any items you may have forgotten to return. We ask that all items be returned in one month's time.

## † **Good News Evangelism Team: Fourth Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm**

Led by Pastor Steve Location: Chapel

This is a monthly gathering to receive training on sharing our faith, and to hear stories of how we see God at work. The emphasis is less on programs and more on people, and how God is leading us to reach out into the community with the good news of Jesus Christ. ALL are welcome to this time of encouraging one another to fulfill the Great Commission.

† **Meals are needed** for the Ray Ward/Karen Tang family who are dealing with Ray's cancer treatment. Please contact Ilonka Comstock for details. (610-416-4096)

† **On Friday night 3/16 at Eastern, Gregory Wolfe, founder and editor of Image Journal will be speaking on "The Erasmus Option"** – Wolfe offers a response to *The Benedict Option*. Wolfe will ask whether or how we can use art the way Erasmus did, to engage culture.

† **Dr. Janet Moore** has been serving in our Counseling Ministry for the past 13 years, working with individuals struggling with a wide range of personal and psychological challenges. Dr. Moore's perspective is that addressing mental health issues is essential to opening our hearts and minds, thereby enabling a closer relationship with God that can sustain us in an imperfect world. You may reach Dr. Moore by leaving a message on her church extension, 610-664-4880 (ext. 121), or at 484-686-6630.

# FOLLOWING JESUS

## Application Questions from Matthew 4:1-11; James 1:2-5

- The same Spirit who came upon Jesus at his glorious baptism, also immediately led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 3:16-4:1). What do you make of this sharp juxtaposition? Did you ever go straight from a mountaintop spiritual experience to a significant time of testing and trial? How did you respond?
- What do you think was the purpose of Jesus' being tested in the wilderness from God's perspective? What do you think was Satan's strategy? Do you see any significance in Satan saying, "If you are the Son of God...?" What do you notice about the results of Jesus's faithful obedience? (Matthew 4:11: Luke 4:13,14).
- Have you had what you would call a desert or wilderness experience? Even if unpleasant, did this time of testing ultimately make you stronger? CS Lewis says that it is in the times of suffering and pain that we often grow the most. Would you agree? How so?
- Do you believe in the reality of Satan or the devil, as more than a symbol or personification of evil? If so, how would you describe a healthy, biblical approach to "spiritual warfare?" (Notice in the Lord's Prayer, we pray both for overcoming temptation, and to be delivered from evil, or the "evil one.")
- Throughout scripture, God does not "tempt" his people (James 1:13-15), but people are said to be tempted by their own sinful desires (the flesh), the world, and the devil (Ephesians 2:1-3). What is the distinction between testing and tempting (even though they are the same word in Greek)?
- When do you find yourself most vulnerable to the tempter? What helps you to overcome temptation? How did Jesus overcome temptation which can be instructive for us?
- Does it help you to know that Jesus was tempted? From Hebrews 2:17,18, how does this help you in your struggles? From Hebrews 4:15,16, how does this help your prayer life? Since Jesus was alone in the wilderness, how do you think we know about his experiences? What are the implications of this?
- From James 1:2-5, how can James possibly exhort us to "consider it all joy" when we face trials. This may sound either grossly insensitive or delusional. But what is the purpose of being tested according to these verses? Where do we "locate" our joy?
- What does it mean to ask for wisdom in James 1:5? Does this include asking "why?" or are there better questions to ask God?



**On the Web:**  
[www.narberthpres.org](http://www.narberthpres.org)  
[twitter.com/narberthpres](https://twitter.com/narberthpres)  
[facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian)

**BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***Sunday, February 25***

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve’s Office  
 8:00am Sunday School, Parlor  
**9:00am Worship Service**  
 9:30am Children’s Sunday School, downstairs  
 9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room  
 10:30am Confirmation Class, Youth Room  
**10:45am Worship Service**  
 4:00pm Youth Group

***Monday, February 26***

7:00pm Prayer Group, open to all, Steve’s Office  
 7:00pm MBR-Bible Study, Music office  
 7:30pm Men’s Bible Study in Gal., Copy Room

***Tuesday, February 27***

7:00am Men’s small group, Resource Room  
 7:00am Men-Sponsored Prayer Breakfast, at Narberth Diner  
 11:00am Prayer Group, Parlor (open to all)  
 7:00pm Missions Committee, Parlor  
 7:00pm Good News Evangelism Team Meeting  
 7:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal

***Wednesday, February 28***

**5:45 Wed Night Supper** Menu: Potato Bar, salad, fruit, dessert (gluten-free also)  
**7:00pm Adult Classes**

***Thursday, March 1***

4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor  
**7:00-8:30pm Mere Christianity book study with Pastor Steve, Parlor (Read p.134-150)**  
 7:30pm Adult Pick-up Basketball, Gym

***Friday, March 2***

9:30am Moms’ Study Group, Parlor  
 10:00am Women’s Bible Study, Chapel  
**6:30-9:00pm Marriage Course, Parlor**  
 6:30-9:30pm Parents’ Night Out, Gym

***Saturday, March 3***

***Sunday, March 4***

8:00am Open Prayer, Pastor Steve’s Office  
 8:00am Sunday School, Parlor  
**9:00am Worship Service -Communion**  
 9:30am Children’s Sunday School, downstairs  
 9:30am Youth Sunday School, Youth Room  
 10:30am Confirmation Class, Youth Room  
**10:45am Worship Service- Communion**  
 4:00pm Youth Group

***Each Week***

**Christian Nursery School** – Jennifer Addy, Director, 610-664-8890  
 2, 3 & 5 Day Programs 9:00am to 11:30am & 11:30am to 3:30pm Extended Day Program, Sept.-May  
**AA** meets 12:30pm, Monday–Friday. Also, Saturday at 12:30pm & Sunday at 4:30pm  
**Counseling:** Dr. Janet Moore: cell: 484-686-6630 email: [jlmpsych@hotmail.com](mailto:jlmpsych@hotmail.com)

***Planning ahead Information and calendar updates 24/7 at [www.narberthpres.org](http://www.narberthpres.org)***

Mar 5 7:00pm Youth Committee  
 Mar 5,19 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
 Mar 7 7:00pm Parents & Youth: Teen Anxiety, the Family and the Church  
 Mar 9, 23 9:30am Moms’ Study Group, Parlor  
 Mar 9 1:30pm Sr. Adult Slide Show, Parlor  
 Mar 9,23 7:00pm Pickleball, Gym  
 Mar 18 10:45am service: CNS Children sing  
 Mar 19 2-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive, Gym  
 Mar 23 9:30-3:30 Sr. Adult Trip to Princeton NJ