



Love God, Love People, and Serve Together

“Give us Barabbas”

March 26, 2023

What is it that we say when we are faced with the tough decisions in life? I know when we all step into the heat of the moment there are decisions that are made that we fail to realize the full ramifications until we look back. There are moments that we all wish we could relive and choose another path or make a different choice. As we move into the final weeks of Lent, we are able this week to step into the story of one such decision made by the people of God.

As was the custom for Passover, the Governor in Jerusalem would provide an opportunity for one person to be released from their death sentence by popular acclaim as a gift to the people. In this instance, Jesus and Barabbas were brought before the people. Barabbas was mentioned in all 4 Gospels and referred to as a bandit, thief, and a revolutionist. He was a prisoner that was truly a thorn in the side of the Roman Government. One who they were ready to put to death and used as a pawn in hopes that the people would choose Jesus over Barabbas. Pilate places the decision in the hands of the religious leaders and God’s people and almost immediately there were resounding voices proclaim, “Give us Barabbas.” This was not what Pilate could even fathom the result would be from the people. With confusion Pilate then asks, “What should then be done with Jesus?” A deafening silence falls over the crowd and then the words that no one would have ever guessed.... “Crucify Him!”

Walking through this journey together, there are many days where we fail to realize the ramifications of our actions. There are situations when we too are asked whom shall we choose... Barabbas or Jesus? We fail to realize that we truly want to have Christ still on the cross in order that we can feel comfortable in our sin. I know that may seem harsh, but do we honestly continue to live in our sin and choose Barabbas so Jesus can still be visible as the propitiation for our sins?

This journey to the cross with Christ is not easy. In fact, it calls for us to fully surrender our lives in order that Christ may lift us up. We continue to think that we let Jesus down, but realize that even Barabbas was given the opportunity for freedom of his sins because of the sacrifice of Christ. See, Barabbas’ name means son of the father or son of the teacher. Even though no one truly knows what happened to Barabbas after his encounter with Jesus, we do know that Barabbas was seen as an example of us. He was representing the death that we deserved and the forgiveness that Jesus was willing to do by standing in even for Barabbas....even for us.

So I ask us all this question, “What would you honestly do?” Would we still cry out for Barabbas in order that all of the grace, love and mercy of Christ would continue to fall upon us or would we step in his place? There was a purpose behind the words that were spoken for Barabbas and for us. May they continue to resonate in our hearts as a reminder that Christ not only chose Barabbas but also chose to pay our debt of death as well. Thank you God for total surrender of Christ and the mercy we receive when we never fully understood the ramifications of the debt that was paid.

In His grip,
Jason

**CHURCH WIDE
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, March 26th @ 2:00 p.m.

Led by our Administrative Council - Fellowship Hall

**CONGREGATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF VOTING**

Sunday, April 2nd @ 2:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of Linda Twiggs and Billy Ragan on their birthdays, March 31st, by the Pathfinders Class.

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Joan Colquitt on her special birthday** by Susan & Tommy Hudson

In honor of **Betty Woodruff on her birthday** by Susan & Tommy Hudson

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Joy Hancock** by Shirley & John Richey

In memory of **Marjorie Ottman** by Jenny Horton; Susan & Tommy Hudson; Shirley & John Richey

In memory of **Jean Edwards** by Jenny Horton; Susan & Tommy Hudson; Shirley & John Richey

EASTER SERVICES

Mon. - Wed. - Noon Day Online Facebook Devotional

Maundy Thursday - 5:30 p.m. Covered Dish Dinner
6:30 p.m. Lenten Cantata & Communion

Good Friday - Service 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Services - 7:15 a.m. Sunrise (In front of the church by the Butterfly Fountain) 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

EASTER BASH

Thank you so, so much to everyone who served with Easter Bash, whether through generously giving your time or through generously providing candy and egg donations. Our heart is to reach this community with the love of Christ, and there is no way that we could have done that without your support! Thank you for participating with us in that mission. I am forever grateful for your partnership!

Meghan Gross
Children's Director

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR! 🎵

This Sunday, our Wynnton Choirs will sing Joseph Martin's lyrical, reflective, arrangement of George Bennard's "The Old Rugged Cross." Bennard began his ministry with the Salvation Army. In response to a troubling meeting in Michigan, George Bennard turned to scripture to focus on the work of Christ on the Cross. Bennard began, and completed the first verse to his well-known hymn "The Old Rugged Cross." He later recalled, "I seemed to have a vision, I saw Christ and the Cross as inseparable."

Martin's music, based on the text from George Bennard's "Old Rugged Cross" will take the singer and the listener on a journey to the cross; where we will cherish not only the old rugged cross, but also the crucified Christ, the Son of God, who used the cross to seek and save all believers. The cross is a metonym; a word used as a substitute for something else closely related. It calls to mind something profound, a larger reality. The Cross of Christ is largely regarded as the center of our faith as Christians. The Cross of Christ centers around salvation. It changes everything!

Chancel and Wesley Choir Anthem "On a Hill Far Away" by Joseph Martin

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it someday for a crown. Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction to me; for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it someday for a crown. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; then He'll call me someday to my home far away, where His glory forever I'll share. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it someday for a crown.

1Peter 2:24-25

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

God's Great Peace to You!
Diana B.

*Prayer Breakfast & Jesus, Fridays
7:00 - 7:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A on Whittelsey
*Organized Chaos Sunday, March 26th from 5-7 p.m. @ the church. Bring Clothes to get messy!
*River of Life Mission Trip info has been given out. \$50 Deposit by March 26th
*Youth Information: Text @basement22 to 81010
*Youth Parents Info: Text @wumcpa to 81010



Children's Programs

The nursery is available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. as well as Sunday School for grades K-12 from 9:45-10:50 a.m. The nursery for infants through age 3 is on the first floor of the Grimes building. Children's Sunday School for Pre-K-5th Grade is on the first floor of the Grimes building, and youth Sunday School is in the basement under the sanctuary. Children's Church will be offered for children through 5th Grade in the Children's Center in the Grimes building during the worship hour.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children in Pre-K through 4th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Sunday School from 9:45 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. in the Grimes Building on the first floor in the Children's Church room next to the nursery.

BE A WYNNTON WELCOMER

WE NEED YOU! to sign-up as a Sunday morning welcomer. We are looking for volunteers to fill open slots through the end of April. Check your calendars for a few Sundays you are available to help us greet our members and guests on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets will be available in the main hallway this Sunday.



We had a great packing party last October! Thanks to all who participated in collecting and/or packing.

NOW we are ready to try again to do more so children everywhere can learn about Jesus. We have information in each Sunday School class and at the Welcome Center. We will continue to highlight items to bring in each month, but if you find a deal on something, buy some and let us know.

March items: Individually wrapped toothbrushes, hairbrushes, hair bands, combs

Thanks, Michaela and Pam

ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

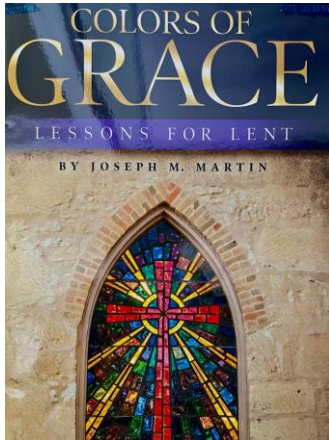
Join us for group fitness every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Alpha Building.

WYNNTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

The month of March is Wynnton's time to collect food to fill the pantry at the Network. WNN continues to find itself having to purchase most of the food that is distributed to our clients from local retail grocery stores. The amount of food received through USDA represents a small percentage of the supplies needed to meet the demand. This has put a tremendous strain on our financial resources. Wynnton UMC has always been a very generous supporter of the Network during our focus months of March and November. But, due to the current situation, the Network is asking Wynnton, along with the other congregations, to give additional donations of food and/or financial contributions. To assist in the collection of the food donations, there will be a drive-by drop off on **Saturday, March 25th** between the hours of 10:00 and 12 noon. Also, grocery bags with a suggested list of items needed will be placed in the church outside the fellowship hall during March. Your support will be greatly appreciated and used to help those in need in our community.

EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering will be going to the budget. This offering is above and beyond your usual giving.



CHORAL LENTEN CANTATA

Thursday, April 6
Potluck Dinner
5:30 p.m.

Service
6:30 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

26 Johnny Daffin, Elizabeth Harbison, Sarah Holden
27 Kylie Miller
28 Frances Sue Anthony, Sarah Holden, Aislyn Lipp
29 Ben Smith, Bill White
31 Billy Ragan, Linda Twiggs
1 Martin Lotz

OUR ATTENDANCE

3-19-23

8:30 a.m. Service.....48
11:00 a.m. Service.....115
Sunday School.....83

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Lenten Reading

Week 2

To continue our Lenten readings, this week we will be focusing on the religious authorities. In these scriptures there is a focus on questioning and second-guessing everything Jesus does. The religious authorities, Pharisees and the Sadducees, are not fond of Jesus and the messages He is bringing. In fact, they take such a poisoned view of Jesus that at one point they contemplate killing Lazarus to try to erase the impact that Jesus is having on the Jewish community. Authority can be tempting sometimes, and much like the religious authorities, it can get comfortable when we find our little zone of influence. Remember the lesson of the Pharisees; it is not our authority and it never was. Everything we have comes from God, and it still belongs to Him each and every day. -Will

March 26- Matthew 22: 15-22
March 27- Matthew 22: 23-33
March 28- Matthew 22: 34-40
March 29- Matthew 22: 41-46
March 30- Matthew 23:1-12
March 31- Matthew 23: 13-39
April 1- Matthew 24: 1-35

OUR STEWARDSHIP

3-19-23

General Fund.....8,538.00
Endowment.....175.00
Missions.....50.00
Loose Offering.....48.00
Other Contributions.....100.00
Wynnton Neighborhood Network.....200.00
Sunday School.....25.00

FLOWER DELIVERY

Betty Woodruff/Shirley Richey

SUNDAY'S SERMON

His Pain... Our Betrayal
Mark 15:1-15

Dr. Jason Wade

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 26

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth & Children
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary
Streams Live on Facebook
2:00 p.m. Informational Meeting led by our
Administrative Council - Fellowship Hall
5:00-7:00 p.m. CORE Group - Youth

Monday, March 27

- 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class - Alpha Building
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Library
5:30 p.m. Bible Study - Home of Beth Hendrickson

Tuesday, March 28

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Library

Wednesday, March 29

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Alpha Building
12-1 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
6:15-7:15 p.m. Prayer Time - Chapel (drop in)
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study - Alpha Building
9:45 a.m. Backpacks of Grace
6:30 p.m. Jordan High School Softball Banquet -
Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 31

- 7:00 -7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast & Jesus - Chick-fil-A -
Whittlesey Rd.

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexy McRae
Aubrey Walker	Jennefer Spell
Daro Miller	Jim Accordino
David Woolbright	Benjamin Feagle
Pam Feagle	Frank Feagle
Julee Robinson McGehee	Barbara McKenzie
Betty Garrett	Richard Holmes
Tom Stafford	Freddie Richardson
Jeanine Cotton	Shelley Montgomery
Joe Batastini	Tina Martinez
David Pringle	Lucy Hart
Joan Colquitt	Sarah Jessie Avant
Robert Garrard	Joy Graham

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Zane Draughon
Family of Bob Ottman
Family of Dom Edwards
Family of Devon Garrison
Family of Wylene Loeb

WYNNTON SAFETY SQUAD

March 26: Team 4 – Dave Stevenson, Bart
Wilson, Paul Therrien, Andy Andresen

WELCOMERS

8:30 a.m. Ramona Andresen

11:00 a.m. Mary Nell & Mike Blasingame

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies March 24-26
Dr. Jason Wade 770-289-4039

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please help us update our
information (or pick up a card
in the church) by using this
QR code. Contact Will
Walley at the church for more
information or questions.

