

Upcoming Events

March 8, 6 p.m. **Deacons**

Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$75,400
Received: \$28,855
Pledged: \$16,500
Still Needed: \$30,045

Communion Liturgy

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name.

CHOIR: (Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.)

Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread

The Sharing of the Cup

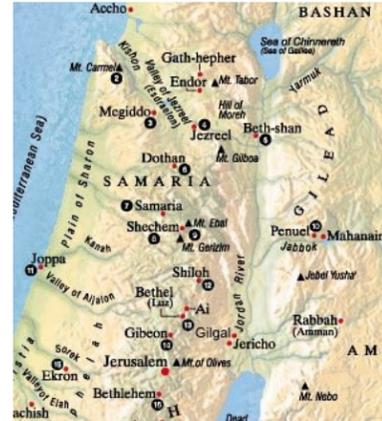
(You are invited forward to receive the elements.)

Prayer

Lenten Series

Each Wednesday during Lent a service will be held at 7pm. The schedule is:

- Wednesday, March 8 at Lambertville
- Wednesday, March 15 at Titusville
- Wednesday, March 22 at Kirkpatrick
- Wednesday, March 29 at Titusville
- Wednesday, April 5 at Larson's Corner
- Maundy Thursday, April 13 at Mt. Airy
- Good Friday, April 14 at Mt. Airy at Noon and at Kirkpatrick at 7 pm



To the southwest of this map is Egypt, buffered by the Negev Desert. The body of water that the Jordan River flows into is the Dead Sea. Genesis 12:6 mentions Shechem, while 13:3 references Bethel.

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Tim Shaub

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, Pastor Emeritus
Barbara Matlack, Office Administrator
Jon and Helen Eastburn, Music Directors

March 5, 2017

THE **EXTRAORDINARY**

GOD'S MAJESTIC WORK of REUNIFICATION & ADOPTION

Let us worship God!

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is the forty day journey of prayer and humility that moves us toward Easter. These forty days do not include Sundays, for on Sunday gatherings we bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. The season focuses us on God's saving work in Christ and is a call to prayer, repentance and self-denial. The extraordinary story

brings us today to Abram and his nephew Lot, as they looked upon a land promised, and a land blessed. It is as Abram looks over the spacious land that he hears once again the promise of God to bless him with offspring. Today, we look to the eternal God, preparing our hearts to listen and obey. We meet the Maker of promises as we find nourishment at his table.



Call to Worship

The season of Lent is a time of renewal in which we can come to unclutter our lives and learn to live simply in loving dependence upon the Father.

It is a time when the Spirit can lead us, bringing us to a deeper freedom and generosity of service, showing us how to be sources of life in the great man-made deserts of our society.

Today we turn our hearts to you, Holy Lord.

Let us worship God!

--James Hanvey, thinkingfaith.org

Prayer of Confession

Our Father who is in heaven, what a great space is between Thee and us. How therefore shall we, Thy children here on earth, banished and exiled from Thee in this vale of misery and wretchedness, come home to Thee into our natural country?

...quite time for personal confession

--William Tyndale, A Dialogue on the Lord's Prayer



Order of Liturgy

Prelude

*Call to Worship (page 1)

*Opening Hymn/ Prayer (page 1)

Confession (page 1)

—call, prayer, assurance

*Gloria patri

Scripture (page 1)

Message

*Hymn of Response (page 1)

*Apostles Creed

*New City Catechism (page 2)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory: "Taste and See"

*Doxology

Communion (page 4)

*Sending Hymn (page 1)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "God is So Good"

**Please stand if able*

Scripture

Psalms 119:129-144 (page 439)

Genesis 13 (page 9)

Luke 11 (page 735)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

Insert "The Glory of These forty Days"

Hymn of Response

#23 "The God of Abraham Praise"

Sending Hymn

#794 "Let All Things Now Living"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Abraham is mentioned 76 times in the New Testament

In the Gospel of Luke, we have 1:55, 1:73, 3:8, 3:34, 13:16, 13:28, 16:22, (also 23, 24, 25, 29, 30), 19:9, 20:37

The doxology that completes the Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer is found in some, but not all, of the earliest manuscripts that we have on record.

Matthew includes, "but deliver us from the evil one" (6:13), where most early Luke manuscripts end with "lead us not into temptation"

Compare 11:23 with 9:50

Compare 11:28 with 8:21

Luke 11:31: I Kings 10 is the story of the Queen of Sheba visiting Solomon

Luke 11:32: Ninevah repenting after Jonah's preaching is found in Jonah 3:6-10

Web Link

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/beginning-of-lent.html> summary of Lent's history in the church

<http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/living-desert-lent> outstanding article

<https://utmost.org/repentance/> from the classic book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-deep-joy-of-self-denial>

<http://www.plough.com/en/topics/faith/discipleship/why-self-denial> reflection from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_and_Lot's_conflict#/media/File:Wenceslas_Hollar_-_Abraham_and_Lot_separating_\(State_2\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_and_Lot's_conflict#/media/File:Wenceslas_Hollar_-_Abraham_and_Lot_separating_(State_2).jpg) picture by artist Wenceslas Hollar

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-16/from-archives-dialogue-on-lords-prayer.html> Tyndale's reformation/early modern dialogue between God and a sinner regarding the Lord's prayer

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 1: God, Creation and Fall, Law

Week 12 What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer: **Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.**

To learn more about Question 11, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/q-parent/q11.php>

Editorial: Abundance

Church system theorists suggest that congregations map their assets. Healthy churches understand the abundance that is around them, while unhealthy congregations cannot see past scarcity. While this asset mapping does include finances, it is ultimately far more than that. Healthy churches see the spiritual gifts, talents and skill sets of worshippers within their congregation, but also see the talents and skills of the people in their neighborhoods, as well as the connections we have within the larger body of Christ. Spiritually, we look to God, with his promise that if we ask for a fish, God will not give us a snake (Luke 11:11). We are a blessed people!

Today's story shows us that Abram and Lot's abundance threatens health between the relatives, until Abram looks at his life with humility, grace and trust.

What clues do we find in the story to help us see our lives, and congregational life in abundance, and not scarcity?

Connecting today with yesterday. Abram travels back through Bethel, where he had built an altar. Upon return, Abram calls on the name of the Lord. Much had happened in between these two worship experiences. This can be a model when we congregate: we come back to worship anew.

Naming the goal. Abram does not want quarreling to define his relationship with Lot. Rather than be trapped by the potential competition and greed, naming his desire for right relationship allows Abram to see all that surrounds them.

Grace. Abram invites Lot to choose first. Yes, prosperous land was all around. Surely Abram could have claimed first choice. He let Lot go before him.

This story shows us Abram building a foundation upon right relationship and grace. Abram also hears the Lord speak. God once again speaks his promise to Abram. What a magnificent promise it was!

Seeing ourselves within the generations. A childless couple now ponders the promise of the Lord that their future generations will be great in number. May we too live with our generations in mind, and not just our children, but our children's children...and their children. And if you are without those generations, pray for those who have them. You can be a spiritual father or mother even without physical offspring.

Worship, and worship again. Hearing God's promise leads Abram to built another altar in his new home. A life built on worship is ready to see the goodness of the Lord. Jesus taught this as well: When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light (11:34)

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 3/5 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

Why do we say the Lord's Prayer every week? Doesn't it lose its meaning when we utter it every time we are in worship? It feels like religion, not faith, to me.

Tedious in Titusville

Dear Tedious,

The prayer offers in a simple way, everything we really need to pray about.

When we address God as **Father**, we should keep in mind Jesus' teaching in Luke 11:13, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him". Our love for family is dear, precious, good and abundant. And yet it is a drop in the ocean compared to the infinite love and care of God for his children.

We do not relate to God solely as children who want, or need something. We revere God as holy. **Hallowed be your name** reminds us of our first priority: to give honor to God's name.

We honor the name of the Lord today, and in days to come, yes, even throughout eternity. **Your kingdom come** is our hope as Christians. Does my life serve that hope? Do I wait, pray, work and relate with this hope in mind?

We also know God in the here and now of daily living. We trust in God for our existence, including the food we need for life. In an era where our nation knows abundance, we must still, with great humility, look to the hand of the Lord for our food. **Give us each day our daily bread.**

Built upon spiritual foundation, and gifted with daily sustenance, we are to live alongside our neighbor, in right relationship. We need God's grace and mercy to do this. **Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.** Being forgiven and forgiving are intricately connected, and one cannot exist without the other.

God our Father is holy, and will bring a good future to this world. He provides today. He calls us to be in right relationship. These are all appropriate prayers. It is also appropriate to ask God's protection upon our path. **Let us not into temptation.**