

Dear Church Family,

At some point in your life, you have probably faced some form of adversity or difficulty. It is almost a fact of life that we will experience hardships, because we live in an imperfect world. The cliché of “whatever doesn’t kill you makes you stronger” might not be helpful in the moment to someone who is bearing a great deal of pain, grief, or loss. Sometimes hardship is simply that—hard. Often the silver linings we experience won’t replace what we’ve lost. However, with God’s help and help from others, hopefully these experiences won’t leave you hard of heart.

Another way to describe a hardship is a time of trial. We know that God will not lead us into sin, but the brokenness of this world and the temptations of the evil one can. The season of Lent is modeled after the forty days and forty nights Jesus spent in the wilderness when he was also tempted, but because He was without sin, did not submit to the devil’s temptations.

Our approach to the Lenten season can be used for the Spiritual formation of our own character. The words of **Jeremiah 18:1-6** talk about the formation and recreation of something broken and remolded by God’s hands:

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Consider this simple question as we begin our journey through Lent: **How is the Lord using this season to reshape you in His hands?** If our approach to worship and spiritual lives is stagnant, meaning we expect things to stay the same, it will be easy to miss how the Lord uses times of trial in our lives to mold us into the person He intends us to be. Even if we feel like a spoiled lump of clay on God’s potter’s wheel, we believe God can still remake us.

The journey to the cross and the empty grave is rarely easy—it certainly was not for Jesus. Whatever you are facing as you enter your own wilderness journey, lean into it and ask the Lord to show you how those moments might be reshaping you for His glory. This is the gospel story, God sent in human form, to allow Jesus to reform and reshape us into the kind of creation he always intended us to be.

-Aaron and Michael



Health Note:

Health Tip:



Health Ministry

“The world doesn’t stop for Lent! You may have noticed schedules continue at their usual hectic pace. So how can you and your family be expected to fit faith rituals into an already overwhelming list of commitments? Spiritual exercises, i.e. prayer, may take some planning, but the actual ‘doing’ can be challenging. Suggestions might include:

1. Thanking God for a beautiful day and other blessings.
2. Praying for sick or hurting relatives and friends.
3. Asking children or teens to choose a prayer or scripture to read at mealtime.

Spiritual exercise improves spiritual health, which is central to well being, and this impacts the whole person.”

Scripture: “ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones.” (Proverbs 3: 7 and 8)



Youth Page

The Jr./Sr. High Sunday School Class will be embarking on a journey through the Bible and learning about some amazing and unbelievable ways that God accomplishes His will. The Bible study series is called, “Believe-It-or-Not.”

FlipSide:

Sunday, March 6th - We will be playing Hide-N-Seek games, with snacks, and Bible study.

Sunday, March 20th - Human foosball and variety of dodgeball games in Fellowship Hall. Bible study will focus on our call to follow Jesus in service and mission.

Confirmation Tier 1 (Youth Room 9:30 - 10:15 AM)

Sunday, March 6th - Communion
Sunday, March 27th - Stewardship

Summer Youth Mission Trip informational meeting will be taking place this month. Please check with your emails for the details.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

March, 2022

- 1 Matthew 9.35-10.15
- 2 Matthew 10.16-42
- 3 Matthew 11.1-30
- 4 Matthew 12.1-21
- 5 Matthew 12.22-50
- 6 Jeremiah 25.1-14
- 7 Jeremiah 25.15-38
- 8 Jeremiah 26.1-24
- 9 Jeremiah 27.1-22
- 10 Jeremiah 28.1-17
- 11 Jeremiah 29.1-21
- 12 Psalm 90
- 13 Matthew 13.1-23
- 14 Matthew 13.24-58
- 15 Matthew 14.1-36
- 16 Matthew 15.1-39
- 17 Matthew 16.1-20
- 18 Matthew 16.21—17.13
- 19 Matthew 17.14-28
- 20 Hebrews 6.1-20
- 21 Hebrews 7.1-28
- 22 Hebrews 8.1-13
- 23 Hebrews 9.1-28
- 24 Hebrews 10.1-18
- 25 Hebrews 10.19-39
- 26 Psalm 93
- 27 Matthew 18.1-20
- 28 Matthew 18.21-35
- 29 Matthew 19.1-30
- 30 Matthew 20.1-34
- 31 Psalm 20

The
Season
of
Lent



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Ash Wednesday



There will be an Ash Wednesday service at
7:00pm on **Wednesday, March 2nd.**

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20



Bible Study resumes on
Tuesday, March 1st at 9:30am.



SPRING

Daylight Savings End is:

Sunday, March 13th

Happy
**St. Patrick's
Day**

March 17th



Upcoming Communion Dates:



March 20th
April 14th
May 15th
June 19th



Mission Spotlight!

March—NCCA

Thirty years ago, a plucky, upstart school called the New Castle Christian Academy welcomed its first students through the doors of the Arthur McGill building, which had been a public school until declining enrollment necessitated its closure in the late 1980s. The original program was created in response to a prolonged public school strike via the efforts of the Greater New Castle Ministerial Fellowship with funding from the Caroline Knox Foundation. After the strike ended, public support for a Christian school remained high, and work was done to make the program permanent. On the first day of school in 1991, NCCA welcomed 62 students.

Today, more than half way through the 2021-2022 school year, NCCA is proud to offer a superb Christian education to over 200 students in grades Pre-K through 8th. NCCA students attend a weekly chapel service, pray in school, and are given the educational foundation to succeed in high school and beyond. God's grace and the tireless support of past and present faculty, staff, parents, friends, and local churches have kept NCCA open for business despite numerous and varied challenges. NCCA made it through the pandemic on stronger footing and is poised to continue to grow.

The Christian Academy has been fortunate to have Clen-Moore as a patron and partner over the years and there are many ways our church helps NCCA, from monetary support to simply being a good neighbor. This spring, NCCA will hold its annual Gala of Gifts fundraiser, which has been postponed for the past 2 years due to COVID. If you are interested in learning more about NCCA, this can be a great way to support the school and get to know those involved. The event will be held at 6 PM on Friday, April 8th at the First Assembly of God church on Pulaski Road.

Personally, (Seth Plyler), NCCA has been a major part of my life, first as a student, now as a parent. It is our hope and prayer that God will continue to strengthen the partnership between NCCA and Clen-Moore well into the future.

Thank you so much for your support!