



# Laurel Gazette

March 2023



## IT'S LENT: LET'S "I SPY" GOD

This is the time of year where we follow our Suffering Servant off the mountaintop of his transfiguration, and down into wilderness for 40-days. Lent means "to lengthen" and is used biblically to talk about long periods of time.

Because it is Lent, now is the time to refine our observational skills. A time to watch Jesus, and see God, and pay attention to the nudging of the Spirit. A time to "listen to him" as God commanded at his transfiguration, in order that we might learn how to "pick up his cross" and "follow him." Notice in these next few weeks how Jesus functions out of his true self as he stares down one temptation after enough and faces one adversity after another. This is his ultimate "it" factor, the factor that shows us not only who God is, but also who we are in God. It also shows us that Jesus trusts God and trusts his expression of God. It is this "it" factor that "shows and tells" the world that it is etched from love and infused with grace. Every time we can bring who we are to the "table," our own "it" factor, we are reminding the world that God is present and living among us. Our "it" factor is our light and salt every time we live out of our true selves as foundationally rooted in God. It takes practice to know who we really are and then to live from it. Yet, when we finally do, it unburdens us from the concerns of our smaller selves, or egos, and gives us the expansive freedom of "seeing" each other and ourselves, and our world, as God does.

This Lent, take time to see God. Remember the "I Spy" games we played in the car to pass the time on road trips with our kids? Make an effort to "I Spy" God in your life, in your day-to-day rhythms, and in this world. We are providing a guided Examen Chart, *Leading from the Heart of God*, to help you do just that. This chart will be included in your bulletin, in our weekly emails, and provided by the sanctuary entrances. Take as many as you would like and adapt it for your use. Wouldn't the world look differently if we could all begin to "I Spy" God in us, around us, and among us?



# March

## Wednesday March 1

12:30pm Contemplative Service in Sanctuary  
1:00pm Beloved meets in Parlor

## Thursday March 2

5:30pm Choir meets.

## Sunday March 5

10:00am Worship Service/Communion/Good Samaritan Offering  
11:00am First Sunday Committee Meetings

## Wednesday March 8

12:30pm Contemplative Service in Sanctuary  
1:00pm Beloved meets in Parlor  
2:30pm Wednesdays at Laurel meets in Parlor.

## Thursday March 9

5:30pm Choir Meets

## Sunday March 12-*Daylight Savings Time*

10:00am Worship Service  
11:00am Session meets.

## Tuesday March 14

10:00am Women's Circle meets in Fellowship Hall.  
12:30pm Lunch Bunch-location TBA

## Wednesday March 15

12:30pm Contemplative Service in Sanctuary  
1:00pm Beloved meets in Parlor

## Thursday March 16

5:30pm Choir meets.

## Friday March 17-*St. Patrick's Day*

## Sunday March 19

10:00am Worship Service  
11:00am Lingering in Fellowship Hall

## Wednesday March 22

11:30am Lent Lunch and Preaching-St. Michael's Catholic Church-Reverend Ann preaching.  
12:30pm Contemplative Service in Sanctuary  
1:00pm Beloved meets in Parlor.  
2:30pm Wednesdays at Laurel meets in Parlor.

## Thursday March 23

5:30pm Choir meets.

## Sunday March 26

10:00am Worship Service/5 cents a meal offering.  
11:00am Vision Task Force meets in Parlor.

## Tuesday March 28

5:30pm Uncorked meets in the Parlor.

## Wednesday March 29

12:30pm Contemplative Service in Sanctuary  
1:00pm Beloved meets in Parlor

## Thursday March 30

5:30pm Choir meets.



The **Shepherd on Call** for the month of **March** is **Gladys Chamberlayne**. Gladys can be reached at 804-755-6172. Please contact her if you know of anyone who needs some extra Laurel love or support.



**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY THIS YEAR!**

Ann Roeder (3)  
Michal Runyon (3)  
Joan McArthur (5)  
Washington Ndirangu (7)  
Becky Zolnai (11)  
Clint Miller (14)  
Marshall Chamberlayne (20)  
Greg Roeder (20)  
Vickie Chaplin (21)  
Janice Berger (23)  
Bernie Cheatham (24)



## MARCH SANCTUARY FLOWERS 2023

**March 5** – To the Glory of God.

**March 12** – Gladys & Marshall Chamberlayne - To the Glory of God and in loving memory of our daughter, Susan.

**March 19** – Michael Henderson – To the Glory of God and in memory of my father, H. Lee Henderson.

**March 26** – Elizabeth Ann Stevenson - to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Agnes Henley Stevenson

## LENT LOVE

We are providing a daily Lenten Devotion series written by the editor of the Presbyterian Outlook and included in our Sunday bulletin and an Examen Chart that will help you live more fully aware of God.

Show yourself and our beloved community some love this Lent. Instead of chocolate or wine, try giving up all the ways you have avoided a deep and intimate relationship with our Beloved One, and learn some new ways of making love known, by bringing your "it" factor to the world. It just might knock your socks off to know the depth of love inside of you radiating from our Beloved One.



### THE LENTEN PRACTICE:

We have many elements to help you deepen your walk this Lent.

-A guided examen, *Leading with the Heart of God*, to identify God's presence and our "it" factor.

-Daily Lenten devotions to deepen our walk with Jesus as he surrenders to Love.

-A weekly contemplative service on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm.

-A meaningful Holy Week with a Maundy Thursday service, a Good Friday experience, and a Saturday prayer vigil as we wait in the uncertainty of the tomb.



### WALK THE LAUREL LABYRINTH FOR LENT



The monks and abbots of old walked the labyrinth in meditation and prayer. Laurel will soon have its own labyrinth for us to walk.

It will have some simple instructions and marked off paths. Thank you to Duane Berger

and his team for the design and construction. This is a very prayerful and contemplative act. During this Lenten season let's take time to walk.

Sue Bell



**Let us keep the following people in our prayers sharing in both their joys and needs:**

**\*New additions will be in bold.**

Our First Responders – Police, Fire, Rescue  
Our Military Personnel, Healthcare Workers

**Wayne Alvis**

The Bowles family

**Kathy Boyce's niece, Rita**

Carl Carpenter

Reverend Ann Cherry and family  
Vin Cibbarelli, father of Pastor Ann

Gladys Chamberlayne

Vickie Chaplin

Jean Cole

Matt and Nancy Cross and family

**Jill Day's sister-in-law, Carol**

Wayne & Marcia Deisher

Carrie and Claude Dickerson

Alice Dunbar-Michelle McBane's mother

Donna Edwards

Emily, Matt, and Vivian Godon

The Hicks Family

Sherrie Kolb

Beth Lanier Wood and Family

Howard Lawrence

Mary Lawrence

Ann Leveridge

Eddie Ann Mathewson

Joan McArthur

Ann McDermott

LaVerne Miller

Muriel-neighbor of Michael Henderson

Eugene Peterson

Phyllis Perross

Ann and Leroy Roeder and family

Chris Rhoden and family

Barbara Rose

Nana Sarfo-Kantanka

**Mary Searce's sister Marge**

Steve Searce and Family

Dot and Page Shepherd

**The Smith Family**

Autumn Waddell

Becky Zolnai

Prayers for the World

Prayers for the people of Afghanistan

Prayers for Ukraine

Prayers for Ruling Elders

Prayers for friends and families

Prayers for the hungry and homeless

Prayers for Laurel's vision team

Prayers for the incarcerated

Prayers for the COVID isolated and infected

**If you know of someone in need of prayer or need prayers, please call Gladys Chamberlayne at 755-**

**6172**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SLATE OF ELDERS!

Our new class of Elders were installed on Sunday February 19 during the worship service. Congratulations to Wayne Alvis, Duane Berger, Margaret Fitch, Linda Maddy and Ann Whitby.

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### CHILI COOK OFF WINNER CROWNED!



The chili cook off was a lot of fun being together with lots of delicious chili's to choose from! It was a hard decision, but we could only pick one winner. Thank you to all who worked hard perfecting their favorite chili recipes! We had 7 entries of chili and lots of salads, corn bread and other delicious bread and lots of tasty desserts. This year's chili cook-off winner was Pete MacRae! Below you will find the recipe for his award-winning chili. He received a gift card to Publix and a cool chef's hat to wear for years to come!!

Congratulations to Pete! Thank you to everyone who helped set up, serve, and clean up. And, especially to Mary Jane Bowlin for her beautiful decorations! Many hands make light work!



(Photos by Fran Tredway)

### PETE'S CHILI

#### Ingredients

- 1-2 tablespoons Vegetable Oil
- 1 Onion (diced)
- 1 Jalapeno (seeded and finely diced)
- 4 cloves Garlic (minced)
- 2 pounds Ground Turkey
- 14 ½ ounces Tomatoes (crushed, canned)
- 14 ½ ounces Tomatoes (diced, with juice)
- 1 tablespoon Tomato Paste
- 2/3 cup Kidney Beans
- 2/3 cup Black Beans
- 2/3 cup Navy Beans
- 1 ½ cups Vegetable Broth
- 2 ½ tablespoons Chili Powder (1 ½ + 1, divided)
- 1 teaspoon Cumin
- 1 teaspoon Cayenne Pepper
- 1 teaspoon Black Pepper

- 1 teaspoon Salt
- 1 tablespoon Brown Sugar

#### Directions

1. In a large pot, add oil and cook down onion, jalapeno, and garlic (5-7 minutes).
2. Add and brown ground turkey; add 1 ½ tablespoons chili powder.
3. Add in remaining ingredients and bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered 60 minutes.

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### NCAA MARCH MADNESS, LAUREL LOVE



Laurel Love will take to the court again this year. Submit your brackets by tipoff on Thursday March 16 for bragging rights and a big ole container of COSTCO size Peanut M & M's!! We had two winners last year with our second chance bracket. Submit as many brackets as the spirit leads you. May the most avid fan win! We are using the ESPN app and our name is Laurel Love – 2023.



Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour for daylight savings time on March 12.

### MEMBER CARE & MISSION

Sunday, February 5, 2023.

Members Present: Mary Jane Bowlin, Caroline Stinger, Brenda MacRae, Bonnie Poff, Diane Jackson, Margaret Fitch, Gladys Chamberlayne, Linda Coulson, Ann Whitby and Kathy Boyce.

-Reserved signs for pews located for future events.

-Chili Cook off scheduled for February 19.

-Mary Jane Bowlin will have our Memorial Plaque updated. A new board will need to be purchased as the current one is now full. Options are being considered.

-Gladys Chamberlayne confirmed that she will do a MM for One Great Hour of Sharing.

-The MC&M birthday bulletin board has been removed from the hallway as we are now communicating via emails, the church bulletin, and the Newsletter.

## Items to highlight for Session:

-Change in guidelines for sending flowers. MCM will send flowers if there is a death with a member—flowers will be sent to the family/spouse. No longer sending flowers for surgeries/hospitalizations/illness. Cards/Calls/offers for food will be initiated on the above mentioned. This is to help with cost/budget

-Request for all committees/members for lingerings/events to take home any leftover foods that have been brought in. The food often ends up spoiling and the refrigerator then must be cleaned out.

Linda Coulson

## WORSHIP & EDUCATION REPORT

Worship & Education would like to thank everyone who helped coordinate, cook, and attend the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 21. It was a busy kitchen with three griddles in constant use, sausages warming in the oven and Marshall Chamberlayne resetting the circuit breaker every few minutes!

The team set and approved communion dates for the coming year and approved a Lenten study for Sunday School.

On Ash Wednesday, we served soup and bread following the service at noon.

### Coming up for Holy Week:

April 2 — Palm Sunday

April 5 —The final contemplative service at 12:30

April 6 — Maundy Thursday - 12:15 service with communion

April 7 — Good Friday - Self guided prayer with booklet and fish sandwiches like last year

April 8 — Saturday - Easter Prayer Vigil — watch the bulletins for the time.

April 9 — Easter!

Flowers for Easter will be hydrangea plants. Sign-ups will be in the bulletins several weeks before Easter.

Finally, we're grateful to Howard Lawrence for leading the choir into the new year!

Duane Berger

## SESSION REPORT

Friends, the Session met on Sunday, February 12 by Zoom and here's what happened—

— We welcomed the new Session class, Wayne Alvis, Duane Berger, Margaret Fitch, Linda Maddy and Ann Whitby and thanked members who are rotating off, Linda Coulson, Michael Henderson, Diane Jackson and Steve Searce.

—Thank you to Ann Whitby for attending the February 18 Presbytery meeting. The two remaining Presbytery meetings this year are on 6/20/23, and 10/21/23. If you are an Elder at Laurel, please consider attending either by Zoom or in person! Ask me how.

—Worship & Education brought to the Session a request to approve an educational event during Lent. The proposal from Reverend Cherry is to offer a contemplative service during Lent following the Lectio Divina practice on Wednesdays at 12:30. It would be a half hour to pause during the week to sit with God and deepen our relationship. The team also proposed to have a Labyrinth during Lent. This would be on the front lawn to walk in meditation. People could walk the labyrinth at their convenience. Also, during Lent, W&E suggested having the church open the Saturday before Easter.

—Member Care & Mission reported that the Chili Cookoff will take place on Sunday, February 19. And the team stressed the importance of all committees and members to take home any leftover foods that have been brought in for lingering's and events. The food often ends up spoiling when left behind.

—Stewardship & Property have recently worked on the boiler and are considering a company to do a maintenance agreement. The team is planning to replace the worn carpet in the hallway adjacent to the sanctuary. They are also researching the possibility of making the chancel area more accessible.

—The Vision Task Force announced that a tag line has been decided and a logo is being created to give our church a new brand!

—Thanks were extended to Michael Henderson and the Nominating Committee for their success in securing Elders for 2023.

—The idea of having a vegetable garden at Laurel was discussed. This would be a service project for a group within our church. Ideas included both having a garden on our church campus as well as bringing produce in from our own gardens. A self-serve stand would be located along the driveway and be visible from the road.

—A volunteer has come forward to help in the office. Her name is Connie Hinkins, and she is a friend of Bonnie Poff.

—Our church annual meeting has been scheduled for April 23 after worship. The next Session meeting is March 12 and the lingering on March 19 will be hosted by Worship & Education.

Duane Berger, Clerk of the Session

DEADLINE FOR GAZETTE – 19th OF EACH MONTH

Consider going paperless and receiving the Gazette via email. Just send me a message at the below address and I will take care of the rest.

Gazette email: [pamacrae@comcast.net](mailto:pamacrae@comcast.net)

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MARCH