

Mayflower Notes...



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Dates to remember in April...



April 1

*Palm Sunday &
Communion*

April 5

Maundy Thursday

April 6

Good Friday

April 8

Easter Sunday

April 12

Trustees Meeting

April 14

Second Saturday Supper

April 15

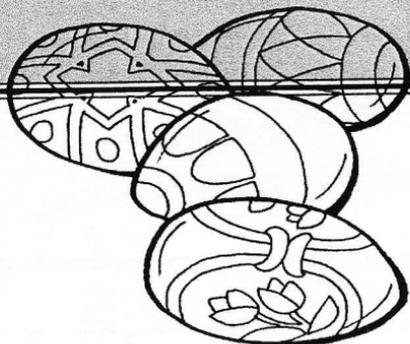
Deadline for Notes

April 27 & 28

Rummage Sale

April 29

Advent House



From The Pastor's Desk

Many times in life, God sends along unexpected blessings. For example, it is March 14th as I am writing this article and I am sitting on my front porch in the sunshine and 70 degree weather having already played my 1st round of golf – the earliest I have ever played golf in Michigan. By the time you are reading this article, we may well have had to shovel snow once more. I do not consider shoveling snow an unexpected blessing from God, but that is just my opinion.

I don't know why life isn't one long blessing from God and then we die and go to Heaven. I don't know why there are hard times. I am reading Job in my devotions and my hard times are nothing compared to what he went through. So, I guess it is all a matter of perspective. If it is happening to me, it is a hard time. If it is happening to someone else, they should toughen up and stop whining. In reality, we should probably have a little compassion and bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) in the family of God.

Caution: don't miss the blessing by being so wrapped up in the hard time of the moment you can't see it. Don't forget to thank God for the blessing – we really shouldn't take Him or His blessing for granted. And rejoice (which in the Greek means to jump up and down and spin around like a top) for all His blessing to us in Christ Jesus; which includes but is not limited to, salvation, forgiveness of sins and eternity in Heaven. Truly God loves us immensely and has wonderful plans for us.

Jeremiah 29:11

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.*



I Scarce Can Take It In

I got to thinking today about overused words in the English language. The first one that came to mind was “awesome.” After a little research I found that this word makes just about every top-ten list of overused words in personal communication in our language. Defined by Webster’s, the word awesome means expressive of awe, an emotion variously combining dread, veneration and wonder that is inspired by authority or the sacred or sublime. Piping up “awesome!” when someone brings home a large ten-item pizza and a six pack of coke doesn’t quite fit, as do most of the common usages of this word during the course of most conversations.

When something is awesome, it tends to render us open-mouthed, speechless, and struggling to comprehend the scope and breadth of what we are seeing (or the significance behind what our eyes are trying to perceive). People often talk about being humbled into this condition when they see Hoover Dam, the Grand Canyon, Mt. Rushmore, the Liberty Bell, National Mall and Memorial Park in Washington, D.C., or the Statue of Liberty. Many of these sights are large, it’s true, but it’s not always just the size of things that renders them awesome. It’s often the significance behind the object itself and the implications it has for our lives.

There are thirty references to the word awe and awesome in my NIV study bible, and they rightfully apply to an appreciation of God The Father or to some of the things that Jesus did during his ministry. The cross at the front of our church is miniscule in comparison to some of the sights listed above, but its implications for our lives (and all humankind) are the ultimate when it comes to the word *awesome*. The third verse of the famous hymn “How Great Thou Art” seems to sum it up pretty well:

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, *I scarce can take it in*

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin

As of this writing, twenty-one days remain until Good Friday. May we continue to survey the wondrous cross, remain awe-struck, and continue to try to comprehend.

Nietzsche

A poster read: "God is dead" - Nietzsche.

The graffiti underneath read: "Nietzsche is dead" - God.



How to Get Into Heaven

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the grace of God that'll I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."

I don't need to use my crystal ball this time - March provided us with an early taste of spring! It was thoroughly enjoyable.

In Sunday School, we keep plugging away. The confirmation class has been studying who God is, and Jesus as both a man and the divine. It's pretty heavy material, but they are handling it great!

The younger students have been looking at Lent and what it means to Christians everywhere.

We look forward to winding our year down soon and having some summer fun!

Liz Canfield



Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale April 27 and 28 (Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have around the house but don't really need any more. . . we all have so much "stuff"! Remember to have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well and we sometimes have to throw things away. If it's truly trash, just toss it out. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures!

Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in any time after the Second Saturday Supper on April 14. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (April 24-26). See Lorraine to volunteer to help.

Join Us For:

Sunday April 1st @ 10:30 am – Palm Sunday, celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week.

Thursday April 5th

6:15 pm – Our Soup & Bread Supper

7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service, a traditional remembrance of the Last Supper

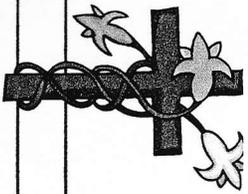
Sunday April 8th @ 10:30 am – Easter Sunday, celebrating the Risen Lord Jesus



Men of Orpheus Concert

The Men of Orpheus will be joined by about 200 other male voices of the Great Lakes Male Chorus Association to present "The Greatest Generation in Song." The concert will take place on Saturday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. See Roger Kennedy for tickets.





April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday and Communion	2	3 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5 Maundy Thursday	6 Good Friday	7 Holy Saturday
8 Easter	9 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	10 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	11 Trustees 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	12 Trustees 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13	14
15 Prudential Council Deadline for Mayflower Notes	16 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	17 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	18 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	19 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20	21
22 Earth Day	23 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	24 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	25	26 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27 Rummage Sale 11am - 7:00 pm	28 Rummage Sale 9 am - 3 pm
29 Advent House lunches	30					

