



Christ • Communion • Community

CASCADIAN WEEKLY

March 19, 2021

Week 54

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JILL

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit" Galatians 5:22-25

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

You are over halfway through the season of Lent – Easter is just three weeks away! We can feel spring in the air, even as it might snow the evening that I write this to you. Many of you have been practicing a Lenten discipline, either doing something more, giving something up, making more time for prayer, giving sacrificially to help alleviate poverty, or spending additional time in the Bible. It has been said that it takes 40 days to learn a new habit, and you're more than halfway there!

Why do we do this? Why do we spend these 40 days before Easter in some self-denial and sacrifice? By turning away from self and instead thinking first of Jesus Christ, we grow – first in faith, but also in awareness of the hurts and burdens of others. Every time we put God first and then serve another, we are acting like a disciple of Christ. While the twelve disciples made many mistakes and did not fully comprehend who Jesus was, they also gave up everything to follow Jesus, and most died a martyr's death. We spend this time with Jesus and for Jesus to become more like Jesus. That's simply what disciples do.

When we put God first and accept Jesus as Lord, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us out. The Spirit helps you to be your best self, filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These "fruits" of the Spirit are a path of happiness. Most people want to achieve happiness, it might be a central goal in your life. But actual happiness often comes as an afterthought, you know happiness alongside of what you are doing for the Kingdom, you know happiness by sharing what you have.

Happiness is a product of the gifts of the Spirit- another of God's gracious free gifts to us, and real happiness is never very far from peace. God's kind of happiness isn't like the happiness standards of the world. Real happiness is not a laugh track playing in the background of your living, instead it is the quiet conviction that God knows you by name, that you are God's and God is yours. Real happiness comes when we seek to draw closer to God, releasing our grip on the things of this world, choosing instead to live by the Spirit.

Saint Augustine said: "Our hearts will find no rest until they find their rest in God." I encourage you in the remaining weeks of Lent to stay strong, don't give up, try not to focus on yourself. Let this be a time of turning around to God, a time to rediscover those gifts of the Spirit that are in you, a time to be grateful for all of the amazing things God has done for you over this last year. Let your heart rest in God alone.

Yes, we have just a few weeks left of Lent, but we have an eternity to keep growing in Jesus Christ. May you exercise some of those spiritual gifts this week as you walk with your Lord towards Jerusalem.

Keep the faith and stay strong,

Jill



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday (3/21).

Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Mark VanDellen Relationships Matter (Zoom) - 2:00 PM

Monday (3/22).

Soul Warmers (Narthex) - 2:00 PM

Tuesday (3/23).

Women's Bible Study (Centennial Hall) - 9:00 AM
Troop 334 Committee Meeting (Narthex) - 7:00 PM

Wednesday (3/24).

Middle/High School Wednesday Night (High School Room) - 6:30 PM
Lent Bible Study (Zoom) - 6:30 PM
Troop 334 Boy Scouts (Centennial Hall) - 7:00 PM

Thursday (3/25).

Griefshare (Zoom) - 10:30 AM
Al/Anon (Coffee House) - 8:00 PM

Friday (3/26).

Saturday (3/27).

Staff CPR Training (Centennial Hall) - 8:00 AM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28:

Join us for worship as we remember Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Worship at 9:30 and 11:00.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1:

Join us for a Tenebrae service of shadows as we walk with Jesus to the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and to the Courtyard of the High Priest. Jesus walks forward, even as the disciples fall away into the shadows. We will have a quiet worship service and communion in the sanctuary at 6:30PM.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 2:

Our annual ecumenical Good Friday service will be online only this year, and available on our website throughout Good Friday, beginning at noon. Join with the churches of the Cascade and Forest Hills area as we follow Jesus to the cross as one people, one community.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4:

Join us online or in person for our celebration for Easter, including an Easter party for the children of the church. This is such a day of hope, triumph over death and sadness, and we will worship Jesus with gratitude and joy! Worship services at 9:30 and 11:00.

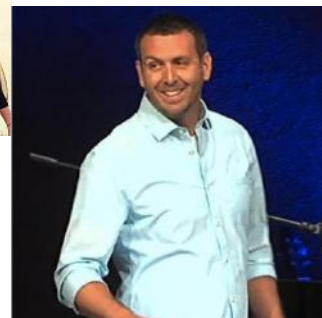
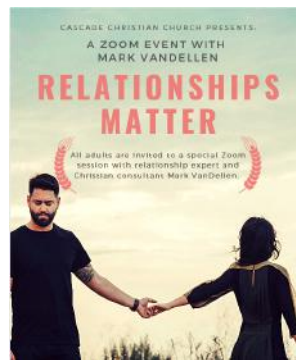
RELATIONSHIPS MATTER - ZOOM EVENT

WITH MARK VANDELLEN

All adults are invited to a special Zoom session with relationships expert and Christian consultant Mark VanDellen.

Mark has both preached and run a session like this for us in the past, and with all the changes and pressures on adults at this time, it is time to have Mark back.

The Zoom event will be on Sunday, March 21 from 2-4 PM. As a bonus, all who sign up will get a swag bag, including a Subway gift card, to use during the Zoom meeting. Register up through the day of the event by emailing Jill at jforton@cascadechristian.com. You can sign up through March 19th.



OFFICE TO BE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

The church office will be closed on Fridays beginning Friday, April 2. The Pastor and Business Manager will be in and can be reached by phone. By closing the office on Fridays we are preparing for Keely Guikema's maternity leave. Please try to cover all church office business on Monday through Thursday. Thank you!



SHOWER FOR KEELY AND CHRIS GUIKEMA

We will shower Keely and Chris's new baby with love after she or he is born in April. We will keep you posted on when this event will be. We are so happy for Keely and Chris as they are soon to welcome their little one.



Financial giving for
the week ending in

3/14/2021:

Budgeted: \$8,432

Given: \$6,796

SAMO (SOCIAL ACTION/MISSION OUTREACH)

Our Lenten offering for Weeks of Compassion has begun. Please pick up a bank and use the Lenten offering envelope to help people around the world with clean water, food, shelter, storm recovery, and so much more.



Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,
For the Compassionate One guides them,
takes them to the best springs.

Isaiah 49:10



DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP

There will be two Days for Girls Workshops on Saturdays, March 20, 1-4pm, and April 24, 1-4 pm 10 Volunteers Needed, no prior experience required. We will be making menstrual kits that involve both sewing and non-sewing abilities. Middle school and high school students welcome. Please contact Diane Phelps by email; dianephelps2010@gmail.com to RSVP



ANTI-RACISM ACTION GROUP

Everyone is invited to join a Zoom group meeting on how we can become an anti-racist congregation. Being anti-racist has been a long-time priority of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There is a book display in the library for those who would like to read and become more educated on how racism impacts our nation. Please check out a book, and/or add a book to share what you've read.

The Anti-Racism Action Group meets every other week to discuss racism, and we are currently reading Jemar Tisby's "The Color of Compromise" a book on how American churches have been complicit in racism. Jemar Tisby was part of Calvin's January series - and his lecture was an eye-opener for many. To be part of this reading and action group contact Pastor Jill at jforton@cascadechristian.com to get the Zoom link. We meet on Wednesdays from 11:30AM-12:30PM, and the next meetings is on March 31.

On April 17th from 8:30-3:30, the Anti-Racism Action Group will be holding a day-long anti-racism training session led by Reverend Kathy Bird DeYoung. To sign up contact the church office.

CAPACITY PLAN AND PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

The Christian Church (Michigan Region) will be making changes to how we meet, govern, and work together in 2021 and beyond. Several things are in the works, including a partnership proposal to work with the Wisconsin and Illinois Region, and a Capacity Plan that addresses how we will move forward within the state of Michigan. There are several documents available in the narthex and the church office for those who would like to read further and become educated on the proposals.

The Regional Assembly will be a time to meet and vote on these documents and proposals, and we will let the congregation know the date of that meeting soon.

These documents are also available on the Christian Church Michigan Region website at www.michigandisciples.org.

CAMP CRYSTAL

June 20-25 Elementary Camp
July 6-9 Day Camp
July 11-17 Middle School Camp
July 11-17 High School Camp
July 18-24 Family Camp

All registrations will be online this year.
Check the website for details



REGISTRATION

Registration for Camp Crystal is LIVE! Go to www.CampCrystal.org/registration then scroll down to Online Registrations. Please help us spread the word about Jesus through our awesome summer camp on the beautiful shores of Crystal Lake. We have many different options available for you this summer -- including a day camp, with an overnight option! If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities or have issues registering, please email Michael at mdirksen@cascadechristian.com. We want to make sure every kid that wants to go to camp, gets to go up to camp this summer!

CAMP CRYSTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

We have scholarships available for anyone who needs them through Cascade Christian Church. The scholarship form is available online here: <https://forms.gle/A2gvybPcbs5sB2h1EA> or hard copies may be picked up in the church office. Participants must be registered for camp to receive the scholarship. If you are in need of further monetary assistance paying for camp, please still apply for the scholarship and also contact Jill in the Church office.

INTERESTED IN BEING A COUNSELOR?

Are you or someone you know interested in being a counselor or counselor in training for Camp Crystal this summer? We are looking for counselors! If you are interested in counseling for Elementary Camp please email Jill at jforton@cascadechristian.com. If you are interested in counseling for Middle School or High School camp, please email Michael mdirksen@cascadechristian.com.

COME ON UP TO DAY CAMP

Do you want to experience a week (or just a day or two?) up at Camp Crystal with your child or grandchild? Come on up to Day Camp! If your child or grandchild is entering 6th grade or younger, you're invited to come up to Camp Crystal with them, enjoy our day camp programming during the day and then have your own fun during the afternoon and evening. Day camp is July 6th-9th and the programming starts at 10 AM and ends at 2:30 PM. Scholarships are available for families who want to participate!

CAMP NURSE NEEDED!

We need a camp nurse for Elementary Camp. If you are able to serve as the nurse for a week, please contact Jill at jforton@cascadechristian.com. The dates are June 20th-25th. Lodging and food are provided.



TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP! INVITE A FRIEND TOO!

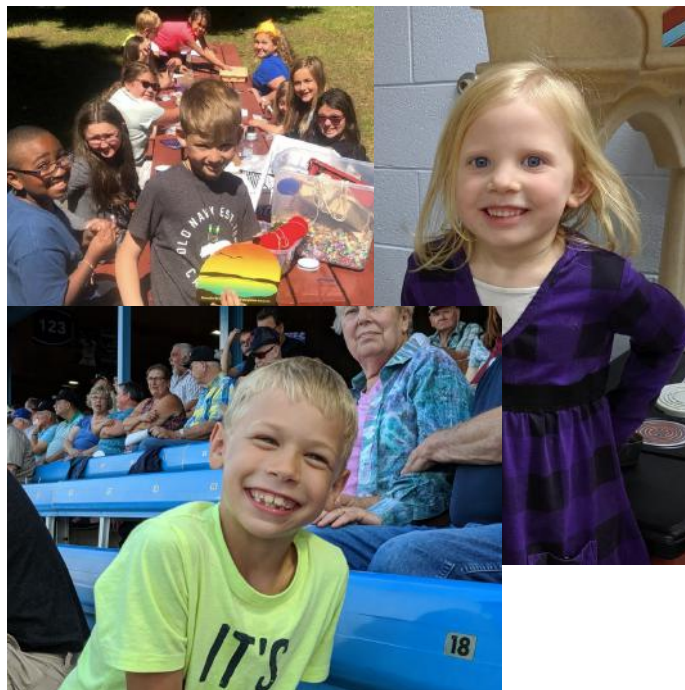
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN-PERSON

Every week at the 9:30 service we have in-person Sunday School for children ages 4 on up. The children begin the morning in the sanctuary with their families and then are dismissed to go to class. Students will be brought back down to church after the service.

VOLUNTEERING

We are in **need** of some parent volunteers to help us run Sunday School at the 9:30 Service as well as come on Wednesday Nights. If this is an area where you may have an interest in helping, please send an email to Michael Dirksen at midirksen@cascadechristian.com. No need to have kids in the program! All volunteers need to be screened before they are able to help.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - SAVE THE DATE

Our Vacation Bible School will be held from July 26th-30th 2021. Please save the date and stay tuned for how you can help us make this happen this year!

CRIB ROOM REOPENED

Our crib room has reopened for infants and toddlers through age 3 at the 9:30 service. Parents must make a reservation for this kind of childcare. Drop-ins will not be permitted. Reservations are appreciated by the Wednesday before the Sunday you plan to attend. Call the church office to make your reservation.

SONSHINE CONTEST

We look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday with the children of the church. If they are here for in-person Sunday School at 9:30 there will be an Easter movie, Easter crafts, and a selection of Easter prizes for those who have been doing their Sunday School pages at home.

Children get a point for every Sunday School lesson page that they do that was sent to them in the mail, a point for each time they do the daily devotion with "Gather Around the Cross", and a point for every activity they do in the Lenten pencil book that was mailed to them at the beginning of Lent. This is all on the honor system, so Moms and Dads are asked to keep track of points and send your child to Sunday School with an approximate tally of what they have done. Those who are doing Sunday School at home only and will not be at the Easter Celebration, can call in their point tally, and prizes will be mailed to them or dropped off at their home.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

WEEKLY EVENTS

We are back to a regular weekly schedule of events that include Sunday School during the 9:30 service. Wednesday Night Youth Group from 6:30-8:00. Then typically the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month we will do a special event! We hope you join us!

MARCH 21ST - OUTDOOR MOVIE & VOLUNTEER DAY

We are going to be meeting at Cascade Christian Church for an outdoor movie & volunteer day from 12:00-2:30 pm! Come ready for some good times serving, hanging with friends, and watching a classic movie... outside! Drinks and snacks will be provided!

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL IMMERSION (MISSION) TRIP

We are going on a Mission Trip this year! Think of this as Mission Trip: Remixed. We are taking the Middle and High Schoolers to Detroit to serve with Rippling Hope from August 1st - August 5th. If you would like to sign up or help us as a volunteer, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/VZyWHwg4M4GeLmhp6> (same sign up as Mackinac)

MACKINAC ISLAND - JUNE 28TH-30TH

We are planning a trip to Mackinac Island for all the Middle and High School students this summer. We will be leaving during the day on June 28th. That night we will be staying at Camp Crystal. The next morning we will leave early from Camp Crystal and go to the Island for a day of fun on the island. That night we will be heading back to Camp Crystal where we will stay one additional night and return to Cascade around 1 pm on Wednesday, June 30th. To sign up, please go here: <https://forms.gle/VZyWHwg4M4GeLmhp6>. (Same sign up as the Immersion Trip)



Happy Easter!



If you would like to order an Easter Lily
for the Sanctuary, please fill out this form
(including your check)
and drop it in the offering plate
or return it to the church office by
Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Honor of _____

Or

In Memory of _____

Number of Plants Ordered: _____ @ 15.00

Total Order \$ _____

*Make checks payable to Cascade Christian Church
Memo: Easter Lilies*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE YOUR LILY HOME
AFTER THE SERVICES ON EASTER SUNDAY.**