



# GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

February 17, 2021  
Volume 58, Issue 4

## WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021  
7:00 PM.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**  
In Person and  
Virtual Worship Service

## SUNDAY

February 21, 2021  
9:30 A.M.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
In-Person and  
Virtual Worship Service

10:30 A.M.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

## SUNDAY

February 28, 2021  
9:30 A.M.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
In-Person and  
Virtual Worship Service

10:30 A.M.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

## SUNDAY

March 7, 2021

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Communion*

*300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speaker*

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef  
Blackwood Presbyterian Church  
Blackwood, NJ

**In-Person and  
Virtual Worship Service**

10:30 A.M.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

## THIS JUST MIGHT INTEREST YOU

“May you live in interesting times,” is an English expression that is claimed to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. While seemingly a blessing, the expression is normally used ironically; life is better in “uninteresting times” of peace and tranquility than in “interesting” ones, which are usually times of trouble. So, it didn’t come from China; but the expression causes us to reflect on both sides of the argument.

Few would dispute the claim that the last 12 months have not been interesting; as well as challenging, saddening, burdensome, horrifying and at times traumatic. We have dealt with a pandemic that has killed almost 500,000 of our fellow citizens; a number that rapidly approaches the epidemic of 1918-21. We have witnessed political upheaval within our nation that threatens to further divide us as a people; while we still struggle with issues of health care, unemployment and religious and racial bigotry. We have watched our Capitol be assaulted for the first time since the War of 1812 with Great Britain. We have had to totally redirect our church offerings and missions, including the limiting of those who can attend in person. Our family lives dealt with the reality of missing Proms, Graduations, Holiday Dinners and gatherings, Weddings, Funerals and in so many cases not even being able to say good bye to loved ones in their final days.

Now, while all of this may indeed seem to be the perfect recipe for a curse; we need to look beyond the immediate. We need to remember that God is with us and none of this was to teach us a lesson or punish us. What better season of the year to call this to mind, the season of Lent, the gathering of the Disciples on Maundy Thursday, the sacrifice our

Lord makes by taking up his cross for us; and the final victory over death in the resurrection. Poet Christian Whitman writes, “I am a Christian because I understand that moment of Christ's passion to have meaning in my own life.; and such a realization eases our loneliness and burdens.”

Christ is with us and because of that; we are called to be with others as well; and we have done this in so many ways as individuals and as a church. May this continue to be our response to these times which have shaken our very beings; but not brought us down; but lifted us up again, and again and again to lend a helping hand, to saying those extra prayers, to becoming more patient with family and friends, to sending a message or card to someone alone to assure them they are not. We can demonstrate, by our faith, that our response to these times in which we live, will indeed not be a curse; but a blessing.

Thanks be to God  
Milt Fredericks  
Lay Pastor of Congregational Care.

**2¢-A MEAL DONATIONS** will be collected during the month of February. If attending church, please bring your coins in and drop them in the soup pot. We are not participating in Souper Bowl this year, but if you’d like to make a donation, we will make sure it gets to the Food Bank. You can also mail your donations to the church.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** are available in the church narthex. If you are unable to get to church, please contact the church office and it will be mailed to you.



**VIRTUAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

The Session has decided that in the best interest and health of the community ALL Holy Week Services will be VIRTUAL via the church’s Facebook Live page. This decision was not made lightly or without wrestling with the significance of this week in the life of the church. We were hoping that COVID-19 Vaccinations would be more available, but this is not the case, so out of an abundance of caution, we are inviting the church family to worship during this sacred season with their immediate family and those in their bubble as we move from Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally, EASTER!



**Holy Week**

Sunday, March 28 - 9:30am

***Palm/Passion Sunday***



Thursday, April 1 - 7:00pm

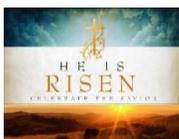
***Maundy Thursday***

Virtual Communion

Friday, April 2 - 7:00pm

***Good Friday***

Traditional Tenebrae service



Sunday, April 4 - 9:30am

***Easter: Resurrection of the Lord***

On this occasion the church joyfully proclaims the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. The service should be centered around the typical and fundamental elements of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day: the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. We will celebrate Communion and have Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, our Executive Presbyter, participate in worship, as we continue to celebrate the Tricentennial.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Wendy Kunz in Shady Lane Rehab, Ed Parkin, Al Edwards, Geri Petri, Meg Orem, Charlotte Nelson, Janet Muhm, Judy Fetty, Emma Mustard, Alex Jenei, and Marie Batten. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.



**Hand Painted Slate Tiles  
Tricentennial Anniversary  
Online Auction**

Slate Roof Tiles from the Presbyterian Church at Woodbury have been beautifully painted by member Becca Brown. There are six hand painted tiles - each with a unique picture of the sanctuary up for auction. Bidding for a slate tile begins at \$100.00 and the highest bidder will receive first choice of the tiles. The remaining five tiles will follow suit in choosing their tile. Bidding on these one-of-a-kind items starts on *February 27, 2021 and ends May 16, 2021* at midnight. Winners will be announced on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. Please send bids to Mary Lynne Diehlman at [diehlman@comcast.net](mailto:diehlman@comcast.net). All bids will be acknowledged by email and you will be notified if your bid falls below the top six bids. Thanks for supporting this fundraising event as we celebrate 300 years as a congregation.

**2021 Lenten Bible Study**

via Zoom

**“The Hope of Glory”**

7:00pm-8:00pm



February 17

Ash Wednesday Service

February 24

In the Beginning

“Father, forgive them...”

March 3

“...today you will be with Me in Paradise”

“Woman, behold thy son!”

March 10

Why hast thou forsaken me?

“I thirst”

March 17

“It is finished:”

“...I commend my spirit”

March 24

Even Unto the End of the World

April 1 - 7pm

Maundy Thursday Service

via Facebook Live

April 2 - 7pm

Good Friday Service

via Facebook Live

April 4 - 9:30 am

EASTER

via Facebook Live

Beginning with “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do”; and ending with “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit,” Jon Meacham captures for the reader how these words epitomize Jesus’s message of love, not hate; grace, not rage; and, rather than vengeance, extraordinary mercy. Jon Meacham returns us to the moment that transformed Jesus from a historical figure into the Son of God. Please join us on Wednesdays via Zoom during Lent for a time of study and prayer as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Please email the pastor ([Phil.Oehler@pcwoobury.com](mailto:Phil.Oehler@pcwoobury.com)) for the Zoom link, and to reserve a copy of Jon Meacham’s book.