



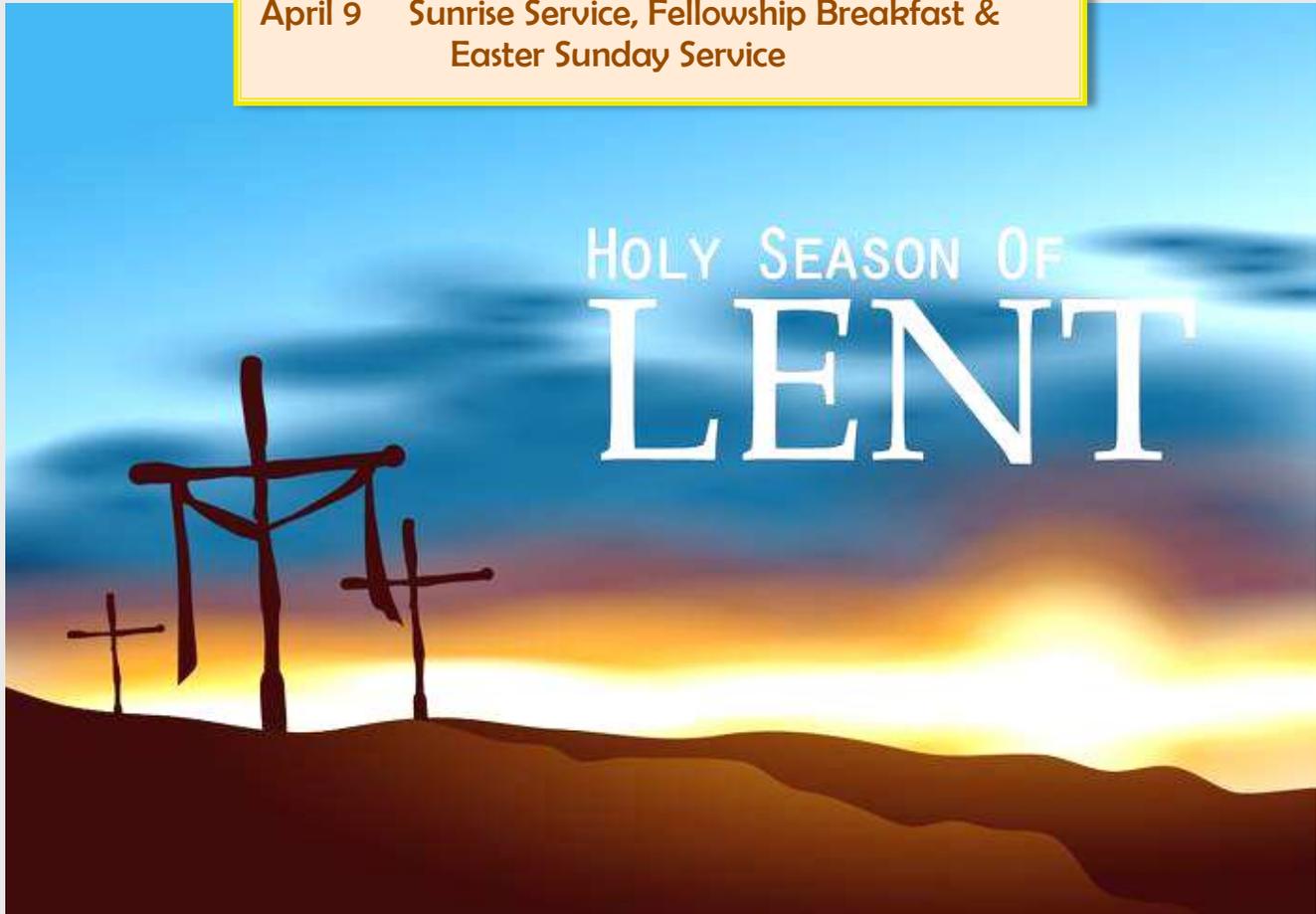
# Westgate March, 2023 Witness

2235 Harrisburg Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-394-1071



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 2- ABW Meeting
- March 5 – Staff Luncheon
- March 19 - ABW Sponsored Linger Longer
- March 20 - Board Meeting
- March 21 - AB Men's Breakfast
  
- April 7 - Good Friday
- April 9 Sunrise Service, Fellowship Breakfast & Easter Sunday Service





## Greetings in the Name of our LORD !

### “The Lion and the Lamb”

It has been a human desire for hundreds of years to make accurate weather predictions. Oral and written history is full of rhymes and anecdotes meant to guide us in our prediction of weather, fair or foul. For the farmer wanting to plant, or the merchant wanting to send a ship for trade, foreknowledge of the weather could mean the difference between success or failure. Thus the sayings...*“Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailor’s delight”* –or– *“When clouds look like black smoke, A wise man will put on his cloak.”* When keeping up with the news, aside from the sometimes surprising accounts of weather events are the too often horrific acts of aggression: we see appalling escalations of violence through war, lawlessness, and hatred. Is it any wonder we prefer to watch the weather segment?

Despite the fact that it has been reasonably mild here and we have gotten no snow, I still find myself grumbling more than I should. Last week I went so far as to say under my breath *“God didn’t intend for people to live in this sort of climate...Ugh!”* But it’s March now and we remember the much quoted phrase *“March comes in like a Lion and out like a Lamb.”* This we say because the month of March usually starts with cold, unpleasant weather, but hopefully ends mild and pleasant. For our sakes let us hope so. Bring on Global warming I say, and please don’t delay. This time of year I begin to long for days that are soft and gentle- like a lamb. I treasure days when I can walk outdoors without a coat and feel sun on my face, days when I can pull the throttle and hear the rumble of my motorcycle. However, more often than not March has its share of days that are like a lion in winter. Late snow, frigid temperatures, and ice often come in March.

Lions and lambs are good Biblical symbols. We are reminded by the prophet Isaiah that when the Kingdom of God comes the lion and the lamb will live peacefully together. What a great image! (Isaiah 11). Sometimes our lives are like roaring lions—cold, angry,

menacing, blowing us to and fro. Sometimes the reason for our inner storms may rest in our own sin, or lack of self discipline. We remember that before humans sinned they lived in a beautiful garden where all the animals lived in peace. We long for moments of peace and harmony. Yet, like March our inner lives alternate between stormy weather and the peaceful sunshine of spring.

The promise in Jesus Christ is that there will come a time when all the storms will cease and there will be a peaceable kingdom in our hearts. Lent offers us an opportunity to consider again the promises of God. We get to explore again the very core of our faith in the cross, the death, and the triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent offers us a time to renew our self reflection and self discipline and deal with our secret sins. In moments of openness and reflection, we may find ourselves wanting to put a lion or two in the cage, forsaking sins and weaknesses that are holding us back.

As we move through the Easter season, the Lenten journey, keep focus on the promises that lie ahead. No matter what storms may beset our lives, no matter how many and loud are the lions that roar...remember the *“lamb of God”* that has come with his Kingdom at hand. Joy comes in the morning! Easter will soon be here. Resurrection victory is just around the corner. A Blessed and deeply Spiritual Lenten Season to you all.

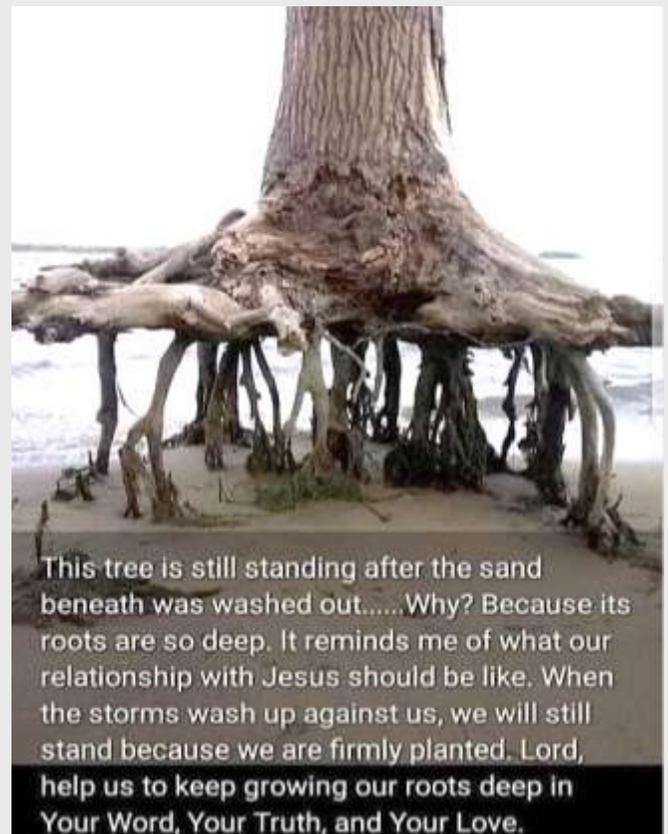
He told me to tell you! Faithfully,

*Pastor Robert Zimmerman*



### **AB Men's Breakfast**

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on March 21 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the **Family Fare Restaurant**, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg, PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



This tree is still standing after the sand beneath was washed out..... Why? Because its roots are so deep. It reminds me of what our relationship with Jesus should be like. When the storms wash up against us, we will still stand because we are firmly planted. Lord, help us to keep growing our roots deep in Your Word, Your Truth, and Your Love.



## ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting is Thursday,  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Please join us Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> after the church service for a delicious  
Soup and Sandwich Luncheon. Sign up sheets in narthex.**

We are continue to participating in the Regional ABW project. The program, "Fresh Start in Costa Rica," is also affiliated with ABC International Ministries and missionary Sue Hegarty. See the posted flyers for more information.

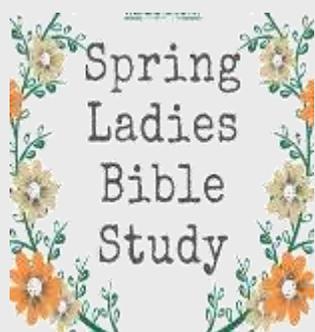
We are planning a very active Spring with a variety of events and hope that you may join us for one, or all of the projects.

*Roman 12 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

If you have questions about ABW, or our projects, please see Pat Rust.  
God Bless & Praise the Lord, Pat Rust and the ABW Ladies

**ABW Ministries of PA & DE Annual Thrive Retreat August 18-20**

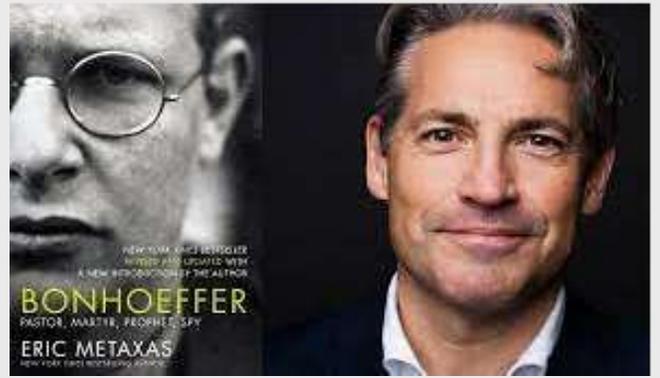
### Women's Bible Study



Come join our Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM. "Fulfilling the Purpose God Has For You!" Using a wonderful study by Max Lucado called "You Were Made For This Moment," we'll look at the life of Esther. We'll talk about opening our hearts to the purpose God has for each of us individually. During our cozy study we fellowship together, discuss God's Word and pray. We sing songs and have fun activities that enhance the lessons! We start with fellowship and conversation at 9:30 am then go into our study at 9:45am. Come join us!

# Sunday School Studies

Join us on Sunday mornings, at 9:30 a.m. for our Adult Sunday School classes. Currently, we are engaging in “Bonhoeffer A Video Study of The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer” led by Eric Metaxas. In Bonhoeffer, a four week video documentary by New York Times bestselling author Eric Metaxas will help us discover the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking; and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world even today. Pulling themes from all Bonhoeffer's major books, Metaxas helps us understand why these spiritual truths meant so much to Bonhoeffer and how they can be an inspiration and challenge to your faith. The videos, discussions and personal reflections will be the centerpiece of our study together. If you have never come to Adult Sunday School consider this a great opportunity to get on board. In addition to the study we commonly also have brief worship, prayer, informal conversation and coffee. In the Four sessions we will exam themes such as--What is the Church? What does it mean to live in Christian Community? What is religion-less Christianity? What does it mean to die to self so we can live for Christ?



## Birthdays & Anniversaries- March

### Birthdays



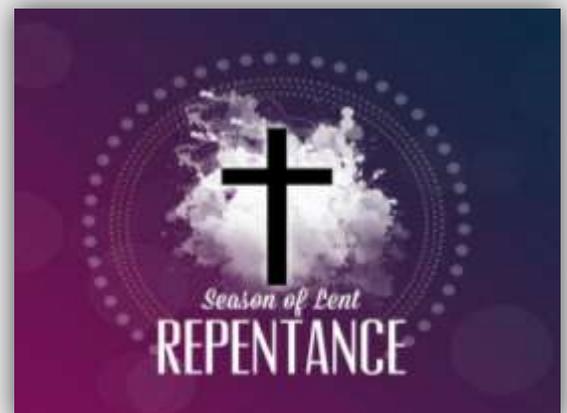
3/1	Judy Johnsen
3/4	Mike Pate
3/6	Chuck Oetell
3/17	Paul Dour
3/18	Amy Yovanovich
3/24	Cynthia Ferris
3/26	Pat Rust
3/27	Samwel Ombongi
3/28	Gordon Tolson
3/29	Nancy Cook
3/30	Stacey Sollenberger



### Anniversaries



3/6/2009	Dan & Ivy Sweigart
3/18/2006	Leroy & Sarah Tebie



## *Invitations to Local Events*

### Parish Resource Center Classes



Next week PRC's second workshop on the topic of food insecurity will take place on Tuesday, March 7th. The workshop, entitled **Food Program Best Practices**, will go into detail about what it takes to create and run a successful food program while correctly following safety regulations and guidelines.

We'll also have a workshop about **Spiritual Care with Marginalized Individuals**. This will take place on Thursday, March 9th and will explore ways that spiritual care has been and might be effectively provided to individuals from marginalized communities.

**Parish Resource Center  
2160 Lincoln Hwy E #18  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
(717) 299-1113**

[www.parishresourcecenter.org](http://www.parishresourcecenter.org)

### **Treasurer's Report**

	<b>February</b>
<b>Budget Income</b>	<b>\$8,790.00</b>
<b>Non-budget income</b>	<b>\$2,396.00</b>



### **EASTER SERVICES**

**On Sunday April 9th our Traditional Easter Sunday service will be held INDOORS at 11:00a.m. with a breakfast in our fellowship hall preceding the service from 9:45 to 10:45a.m. There will be no Sunday School that Sunday.**

**Sunrise Service at 6:30a.m. at 106 Fairland Road, Lititz PA. Richard and Nancy Cook's neighbor Dean Zeigler hosts an Ecumenical Outdoor Sunrise Service followed by a breakfast. Bring your own lawn chair or blankets. Having attended this service for several years I can emphasize how utterly beautiful it is to see the sunrise against the backdrop of beautiful Lancaster County hills and farmland.**

***\*Further announcements regarding Holy Week including Maundy Thursday will be provided in future bulletins and in the April Newsletter.***

# Baptist Potpourri

ABW-USA

Dear Friends:

It was a blessing to experience girl power as AB GIRLS shined brightly at the recent AB GIRLS Winter Wonderland Hangout. We had a wonderful time as girls gathered and shared theological reflections, cooking tips, a service project, and expressed their entrepreneurial ideas. We were blessed to have girls from Colorado, Washington, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania join us. We give a special shout-out to Siloam Baptist Church in Norristown, PA, and Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville, MD, which joined us with several girls from their churches. We enjoyed fellowship with first-timers and girls that returned to hang out and study God's word.

## ***ABCOPAD Regional News Update***

A new webpage has been created.... providing timely updates on the latest news regarding our region's Vision Team, Geographic Pastoral Servants (GPS), Ambassadors, and Commission on Ministerial Leadership (COML).

*From the Christian Citizen (an American Baptist publication)*



## ***“Billion-year-old-carbon and the garden- Lent”***

My friend once joked that if our robotic vacuum ever became sentient, it would come and attack us – for we are the cause of dust. **Lent** is a time to remember that we are the dust of the world. The band Kansas reminds us that we are but “Dust in the Wind.” Joni Mitchell, in her song “Woodstock,” tells us that:

*We are stardust  
Billion year old carbon  
We are golden  
Caught in the devil's bargain  
And we've got to get ourselves  
Back to the garden.*

Her song encapsulates this season, which we mark off by reminding ourselves that we are but dust, and to dust we shall return. To the broader public, Lent appears to be the period when some groups of Christians give up dessert or social media or some other measure of luxury to remind themselves of the sacrifice Christ made while in the wilderness. I would like to posit that this year we think of Lent less of a period of sacrifice and more of a period of journey back to where we came from – the garden.

In the familiar passages, Luke 4:1-13 and Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus encounters the devil and is tempted three times. These temptations mirror the temptation of man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-24). The devil, in the Gospel accounts, challenges Christ to take on roles only available to God. Christ rejects the temptations of Satan. He refuses the temptation, reiterating that certain powers belong to God and God alone. In the Genesis account, the serpent tempts Eve into eating the forbidden fruit so that her “eyes may be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4-5). She gives into temptation and gains insight that was reserved for God only.

These parallel stories highlight the necessary difference between Christ, as human, and actual humanity. Whereas humanity fails in its temptation, Christ can withstand it. Christ, as human, fixes what humanity breaks, that is Christ rejects the promises of the serpent in the only way humanity can, by an incarnate God. He finds his way “back to the garden,” and this body of flesh and dust, left alone in the wilderness, starts to undo what humanity fell into, that is rejecting the temptation to be more than dust. Humans were never meant to be God, but they were meant to dwell alongside God in the garden.

Perhaps then, Lent should be a time for us to remind ourselves of our mortality – a mortality that arises from our failure to be more than “billion-year-old carbon,” which the sentient Roombas in the future will attack. We need to wrestle with this and not just use the Lenten season to give up a luxury. We have always been dust (Genesis 2:7) but we are dust reflecting the imago Dei. We are dust born of love and as caretakers of creation. We are dust that fails time and again, but Christ was also born of dust and lived among us to show us that even dust can do good things. We may be “stardust,” but we can be so much more. Lent asks us to take a hard look at that and embrace our fallenness by looking back toward the garden, and toward the future when we will trade off our brokenness and tabernacle with God again.

*Dr. Claire Hein Blanton is an ordained Baptist minister in Houston, Texas. She received PhD in systematic theology and ethics from the University of Aberdeen.*

## **ACTS Ministry School**

**Christian Education**

**March 25 – May 13, 2023 8:00-10:00 am.**

An introduction to the leading of a complete Christian Education Experience .i.e., Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth work, and nursery programs. The needs of various age groups will be presented. Skills will be built for working with church leadership, for looking at and selecting materials, and for providing guidance to the teachers involved. Basic teacher skills will also be discussed.