

What's Bloomin'

At Bloom Presbyterian Church

Feb/March 2011

Bloom Presbyterian Church

75 E. South St.

Rev. Brian Harroff – Pastor

Worship – 10:30 Sunday

Mark Your Calendars:

- **Feb 22** – Men's Group @ GPC
- **Feb 27** – Asian Pot Luck
- **March 9** – Ash Wednesday Service – Gender Rd CC
- **March 11** – Game Night
- **March 15** – Presbytery Meeting @ St. Andrew Pres.
- **March 19** – Community Breakfast
- **April 21** – Maundy Thursday Potluck
- **April 24** – Easter Sunday

Worship – where we've been

As we walk through the Gospel of Matthew. We've been looking at the various prophets to build a foundation from which to understand Matthew's portrayal of Jesus as a prophet and as the new Moses.

Moses and the prophets, highlight a strong contrast between God and Pharaoh. The Exodus story is a story which embodies this contrast.

God is signified by a

capacity for generosity. God graciously fed Israel manna in the desert.

Pharaoh is signified by the nightmare of scarcity. He hoarded his power and security and demanded increasingly more bricks from the enslaved Israelis

The prophets condemn God's people for being constantly drawn back to the ways the ways of Pharaoh. Israel constantly doubts that God's abundance can

govern their actions outside of worship.

For us too, God often matters only in the church, not in the day-to-day affairs of the community. Pharaoh seems to understand the world much better than God does.

But, the prophets proclaim that God's way governs every aspect of life. God's people must act from abundance and reject Pharaoh in all things. ☉

Worship – where we're going

Now that we've set the stage for understanding Matthew's portrayal of Jesus, we're going to delve into Jesus as prophet.

To this point in the church year, the sermons have been based on the Old Testament passages. As we turn toward Lent and Easter, we will be using the Gospel texts as our main worship focus.

On some of the Sundays, we will step away from the lectionary to walk through Matthew texts which are

not included.

Our knowledge of the prophetic message, and Jesus' further explanation of it, will deepen our understanding of the forces that lead to the crucifixion.

Jesus message continues to challenge Pharaoh's view of the world. The Church, as it seeks to follow Jesus, is increasingly called into conflict with the ways of society.

Jesus prophetic message has incredible relevance

in a world plagued by greed, economic uncertainty, war, and death – by Pharaoh. Jesus' message is an incredibly hopeful one based in the gracious abundance of God. As with other prophets, this message of hope offends the world and leads to the death of the messenger.

This Lenten season, our church will be called again to reject Pharaoh and recommit ourselves to the abundant ways of God – even if it leads to the cross. ☉

February Lectionary

Feb 6

Isaiah 58:1-12
1 Cor. 2:1-12
Matt. 5:13-20

Feb 13

Deut. 30:15-20
1 Cor. 3:1-9
Matt. 5:21-37

Feb 20

Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18
1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23
Matt. 5:38-48

Feb 27

Isaiah 49:8-16
1 Cor. 4:1-5
Matt. 6:24-34

March Lectionary

March 6

Exodus 24:12-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matt. 17:1-9

March 13

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matt. 4:1-11

March 20

Genesis 12:1-4
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 27

Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Lenten Services

Last year, we participated in the Lenten tradition of using the Stations of the Cross as a guide for prayer time.

These services are much different than our regular Sunday services. The Sunday school room is candlelit and quiet. The music is low and solemn. The liturgy associated with the Stations of the Cross is fairly intense. In all, the atmosphere facilitates

deep reflection and meditation.


Several of last year's participants have requested the Lenten program be conducted again this year. So, this spring we will undertake a similar journey to Easter.

A different worship style can be a wonderful way to experience God's presence in a new manner. Lent has

traditionally been a time of deep spirituality.

The worship committee encourages us all to partake in one or more of these special services.

The Lenten services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. The services will begin on March 16 and continue through April 13.


O taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8 

Sunday Tunes

The Worship Committee would like some help with the music during the Sunday services.

We are hoping to start a choir. We'd like to sing an anthem during the service a couple of times a month. There is a small group of folks who've expressed an interest in joining a choir. If you'd like to join us, please contact Scott. (No talent needed, all applicants accepted)

Pastor Brian is looking for suggestions for Sunday hymns. If there are hymns you'd like to be singing, please let Pastor Brian know.

The worship committee, in conjunction with the new life committee is looking to bring singing groups to Bloom occasionally. If there are groups, or individuals you'd like to see featured on a Sunday, let Scott or Lisa know. 

Sing to the Lord a new song!

-- Psalm 96:1

Facebook

Did you know the church has a website? A Facebook page? That the pastor has a blog? That the pastor is on Twitter?


The world is changing the way in which people communicate with each other. It's also changing

the way people find and investigate churches.

In the coming months we hope to show the world more life and activity through these emerging technologies.

Those who are online can

help us by visiting these pages, joining discussions, and posting comments & events.

Anyone who is not online, and would like to be, can talk to Pastor Brian. We might even set up a class or two. 

F.O.G.

To what degree does Bloom Presbyterian fulfill our calling to be a church?

Ironically, this question is brought to mind by a review of changes proposed for our denominations constitution.

On March 15 the Presbytery of Scioto Valley will vote on changing the Book of Order with a new Form of Government (F.O.G.). The front portion of this new text is entitled the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. It provides the theological bases for how we

Presbyterians govern ourselves.

This section makes the following statements about the calling of the church:

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community of the word.

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation.

The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord. 🍌

So, how are we doing?

Mission Giving

Bloom Presbyterian continues to live out of God's grace through our mission giving.

The monthly community breakfasts are reaching more people.

In February the session voted to give \$400 in mission giving to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. This money will be used by the presbytery to support mission work throughout the Scioto Valley community.

As the year progresses,

we will be called upon to continue to provide for our brothers and sisters.

In April we will have a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing which supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The Crisis Fund, the Canal Winchester Food Pantry, Canal Winchester Human Services and other agencies in our area are being stretched to the limit.

We need to be creative in

seeking ways to support these organizations with our limited resources. We also need to be mindful of the ways in which the Spirit will lift needs to our attention this year.

We are small, but we have the hope of the Gospel and the power of the Spirit. We are able to do mighty things in Jesus' name. 🍌

But you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 19:18

Bloom Presbyterian



Adult Sunday School – 9:30
Youth Sunday School – 10:30
Worship – 10:30

Rev. Brian Harroff – Pastor

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bloompresbyterian.com

Buds – not quite blooms

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley will meet at St. Andrew Presbyterian on March 15. An elder-delegate is needed to represent Bloom.

The Ash Wednesday ecumenical service will be held at Gender Road Christian Church. The service will begin at 7:30 pm.

Pastor Brian will be on

vacation the last Sunday in March and the first Sunday in April.

If you are interested in participating in a mid-week, afternoon Bible study, contact Norma.

There will be two coffee shops opening in Lithopolis this spring. The New Life committee proposed the possibility of a discussion group

meeting in one of them during the evening. If you would be interested in an informal discussion of current events from a Christian perspective, contact Lisa Harroff.

Welcome to Bloom...

We are a warm, open faith community in Lithopolis Ohio. We come together as a family to worship, grow, give and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

We welcome any who would like to join us as we seek a closer relationship

with Christ and with other Christians.

At Bloom you will find a endearing mix of tradition and change. We are growing toward a bright future while celebrating our meaningful past.

If your faith Journey brings you to the Lithopolis/Canal Winchester area, we'd love to have you stop in and join us as we glorify and respond to God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

BLOOM PRESBYTERIAN

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