

B E A C O N

March 2021. . . Brief

Gravel Hill UMC

Dan Lebo, Senior Pastor



From Pastor Dan:

Lent is a season of reflection. It is a time for each of us individually and as a community to look within ourselves. It is, in the words of Rev. Walter Brueggemann, a “come to Jesus” time. For our March newsletter I wanted to share one of Rev. Brueggemann’s Lenten reflections with you. His words were meaningful to me and I hope they will be to you as well:

Lent is Come to Jesus Time by Walter Brueggemann

Lent is a time for “following.” The narrative about Jesus’ suffering and death provides a way in which we are able, in an act of disciplined imagination, to situate (or resituate) our lives in the story of Jesus. We become aware that the story of Jesus requires and permits a new version of our own story of life and faith.

Lent is a time for fresh decision-making about reliance upon the God of the gospel. Such decision-making in Lent is commonly called “repentance.” It’s a time to reflect on the way in which God gives new life that is welcome when we recognize how our old way of life mostly leaves us weary and unsatisfied.

Lent is a time to face the reality that there is no easy or “convenient” passage from our previous life to a new, joyous life in the gospel. The move is by the pattern and sequence of Jesus’ own life, an embrace of suffering that comes with obedience, a suffering which comes inevitably when our lives are at odds with dominant social values.

Lent is a time for life with God. While Jesus’ suffering and death are quite public events in the Roman Empire, his prayers—echoing the psalms—evidence that his primary focus was on life with God. In Lent we may draw away from public life enough to give energy to this defining relationship with the God who hears and answers, who summons, forgives, and saves.

Special Announcements:

1. For those interested in summer camping at Gretna Glen, summer registration for overnight and day camps is now open! Please view more information by accessing the following, <https://www.gretnaglen.org/summer-camp>
2. Gravel Hill UMC will be reaching our 175th Anniversary this year! We would like to organize an event in the fall to celebrate. If you are interested in helping on a planning team, please contact [the Office](#). We hope to schedule a meeting in the next couple of months to explore ideas.

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Facebook: [Gravel Hill Church](#) Instagram: [@131gravelhill](#) Twitter: [@GravelHill](#) Visit our Sermons: [GravelHillUMC Video Gallery](#)

Worship Notes:

Worship is available at [8:00am \(Traditional\)](#) and [10:30am \(Praise\)](#). Please RSVP your attendance by calling the church office or by accessing one of the links above.

Please continue to provide [Joyce Lochinger](#) with your feedback, photos and thoughts to include on a How We Worship page for the newsletter! Everyone appreciates seeing and hearing from you!

Online Giving Options:

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in providing your weekly giving. Because of your generosity, the work of Gravel Hill continues! If you haven't already, [creating an online account](#) for handling your [giving online](#) is simple and quick to set up, start, stop and change as you continue throughout the year. If you have any questions, please email Dawn Schaffer at dawn@gravelhillumc.org.

Teachers Urgently Needed:

Gravel Hill Christian Child Care currently has part-time and full-time openings. If you have questions, please call 717-838-3620. To submit a resume, email it to ghcccdirector@yahoo.com, attention Lori Cheatham.

Special Thank You Notes:

The Gravel Hill staff would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to the person who anonymously provided the Lisa's gift cards! What a lovely surprise! Thank you sincerely, for your thought and generosity to the Gravel Hill staff.



Deadline reminder: If you'd like something to be included in the Beacon Brief, please submit it to Dawn Schaffer by the 15th of the month before you wish your information to appear. (e.g. To print something in the April Brief, please submit it no later than March 15th) Thank you!

Gravel Hill Staff:

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