

# THE PARK BENCH

## What *Should* or *Could* Baptists Do During Lent?

In preparation for serious reflection upon the Lord's cross and his victorious resurrection from the dead many Christian faith traditions practice Lent. Historically, Baptists are usually not the first ones in line to observe Lent (as we proudly have built in *traditionometers* that keep us from too much Roman Catholic structure). Historically, Lent is a period set aside by worshipers to reflect upon the significance and magnitude of Christ's work on the cross in light of their desperate need for grace, mercy and forgiveness. The observance of Lent is usually accompanied by fasting, prayer, mourning, self-denial and repenting over sin. Traditionally, Baptists would argue that EVERY day is a good time for these things. And of course.....they would be right!

*"but when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

*Matthew 6:16-18*

As Christians practicing our faith in the sphere of Baptist tradition, we ought to submit that while reflection upon our sin, Christ's cross, fervent prayer and a holy lifestyle of self-denial shouldn't be practiced solely within the limited confines of the 40 days of Lent; there is wisdom in setting aside times of special observance and dedication for our personal and corporate growth. We as Christians should keep these sacred truths close to our hearts at all times; especially when we gather at the Lord's Table. And reflecting on them for the forty days leading up to Easter gives us an opportunity to be reminded by the daily calendar of their extreme import.

Baptists generally rally behind the notion of "no creed but the Bible," building off the Reformation concept of the *Regulative Principle*. Since the command to prepare, fast, and observe the 40 days before Easter is not explicitly commanded in the Bible, Baptists typically believe we should avoid doing it. Perhaps this takes things a bit too far. If we followed this argument consistently, then we would also stop observing Christmas, since any kind of ecclesiastical worship and observation of the birth of Jesus is never explicitly commanded in Scripture and we are probably not ready to adopt THAT concept.

As brothers and sisters in Christ here at Franklin Park Baptist Church we ought to consider encouraging one another in some of these rich traditions; *not because they make us holy in and of themselves, but because through humble and earnest prayer we might be driven to our knees before the cross and learn to submit ourselves more fully to Christ, His Word and His people*. Let us take the time to pray for each other's specific needs as we approach Easter. This requires relationship and relationship requires time. Let us take that time to encourage and pray for each other openly since Christ calls us to:

*"walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

*Ephesians 5:2*

In Christ's love and service,  
Pastor George Augustine Palombo

[Address: 2470 Nicholson RD. Sewickley, PA 15143](#) [View On Google Maps](#)

Phone: 724-935-3950

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© **THE SECRET PLACE** for March through May is now on the table in the narthex. This is a world-wide quarterly devotional magazine with a readership of more than 250,000. It is written by solely freelance writers and anyone may submit meditations for consideration. Specific details are found in the front of each issue. This is an ABC-USA. sponsored publication.

Send your contributions to:

[thesecretplace@abc-usa.org](mailto:thesecretplace@abc-usa.org) or mail to  
**Editor, THE SECRET PLACE,**  
**P. O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA.**  
**19482 -0851.**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
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| 7  | Cora Kearns ( her 6 <sup>th</sup> ! )       |
| 8  | Rick Green                                  |
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| 9  | Emilie Gildernew                            |
| 11 | JOHN & DEBBIE MOELLER                       |
| 16 | Bethany Frazier                             |
| 24 | Matthew McKenna ( his 19 <sup>th</sup> ! )  |
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| 29 | Shirley Wright                              |

 **MARCH**  
**ANNIVERSARIES**  
*and Birthdays*



### Mission Group Rummage / Bake Sale

The rummage sale/flea market will be the last Saturday of April. We will be offering lots of treasures along with Amish doughnuts, pies, cinnamon rolls, cookies and dinner rolls along with a lunch special. We would like you to look around and see if you have any treasures you would like to donate.

Either drop them off at the church or call for pick-up (412.719.9307) We would like to see if any of you would be available to help the day of the sale as check out people. Throughout the week before the sale we need help in setting up the room, sorting and pricing items.

ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE WILL BE  
 GREATLY APPRECIATED !

Karen Ott will be glad to talk to you about a scheduled time (412.952.1110) or call Ralph (412.719.9307) or the church office (724-935-3950).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- The Summer Mission Group

[ This is our **biggest fund raiser of the year to help with the costs of the teens and adults going on the trip. Building materials cost alone is \$3550.00 for our group. ]**



**Youth Group activity**

We will be going to Pinball Perfection in West View on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at noon and after we are all gamed out we will go for pizza. Please let Ralph know if you are going so transportation can be arranged.



**Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, March 18, at 8:30 a.m.  
 Fairmount Presbyterian Church  
 2535 Fairmount Church Rd  
 Sewickley, PA 15143

We welcome men of all ages to join us for a time of fellowship and encouragement in Christ along with some good food. Long time Fairmount member, Scotty Martin, will display and talk about his wooden model vehicles and Pastor Nathan Beard will lead a brief devotional on *Ephesians 2:10*, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 14 to Pastor Beard at (412) 364-7880 or [fairmountarpc@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountarpc@gmail.com)

**Special dates**

- Ash Wednesday, *March 1, 2017*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 3, 2017*
- First Sunday in Lent, *March 5, 2017*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 12, 2017*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 12, 2017*
- Girl Scout Sunday, *March 12, 2017*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 19, 2017*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2017*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 26, 2017*



***Saturday, March 11, 2017***

**EASTER SAUSAGE ORDERS ARE BEING TAKEN NOW.**

***Price is \$3.75 per pound for Seasoned or unseasoned***

***Orders are due by April 2 with pick up on Thursday, April 6 after 6:30 p.m. Order forms are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions please talk to Nancy McNaughton.***



- ^ **Dylan Slusser, 25**, died very suddenly from a brain bleed. Dylan's parents are Bernie and Lori (Steigerwald) Slusser and grandparents are Lois and Tom Slusser and Denny and Karen Steigerwald both of Franklin Park. The Slusser's lost another grandson, 21, a year ago from an auto accident. Please keep them in prayer. This is a devastating loss. Bernie and his sister Angie grew up in this church and remain friends with some of our young adults.
- ^ **Rev. Robert Cunningham**, 96, is in Vincentian Care receiving rehab and therapy following hospitalization for diverticulitis and dehydration.
- ^ **Kaitlyn Francis**, 15, great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum, began another series of chemotherapy treatments. Kaitlyn, her parents, Brittany and Jason, and younger sister, Brianna, 12, are in need of prayer. The Francis's address is: 130 Orchard Avenue, Ellwood City, PA. 16117 – 1050. Her outlook is amazing !
- ^ **Scott Lilly**, grandson of Millie and John Flinchum, is hospitalized being treated for a severe bout of pancreatitis.
- ^ **Tim McCrory**, recently suffered a stroke. He is a friend of the Worst's and about the same age.
- ^ **Jeremy Styron** had an emergency surgery and he is now breathing with both lungs without any oxygen.
- ^ **Raina Churchin and her newborn baby** – the baby weighed almost 2 pounds when born and is now off the ventilator and being bottle fed. Praise God ! Mom is doing much better also.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family and works in Cecil Township.
- ❖ **Answered Prayer and Praise for : June Elder** who was able to worship with last week us after a brief hospitalization. She thanked everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and acts of concern for her.
- ❖ **Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones : Eileen Sarver** recently lost her son Scott and daughter in law Susan. Both of whom had been ill for some time and passed in their sleep 9 days apart. They leave 2 grown children, Shawn and Shannon. **Darlene Dennis** asks for prayer for her friend, **Bianca**, who recently lost her mother who was 93. Just a few days later her God-mother passed unexpectedly.
- ❖ **Continued Concern For:** Landon Noulett, Dave Kelly, Dylan McKinney, Rev. Dr. John Fetterman, Ryan, 16 years old, (awaiting a heart transplant) The Langer family, Mac Griffin, Katelyn Dauer's friend, John Moeller, Edward Kolodziej and his wife, Bob Waldron, Edith Yockel, Patty Koen, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer:** Lance Cunningham, Bill McGahee, Sue Snyder, Kate Fetterman, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser, Horatia Hammerschmitt.
- ❖ **Missionaries :** **Becky and Larry Stanton** ( Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic), **Brian and Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti). **Valerie and Aaron Osterbrock** (East Malaysia) **Ted Parks**.
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country :** **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie who are in Guam. Major Douglas Bauer, PO Box 4494, Yigo, Guam 96929.

Your America for Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.

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

**CULTIVATING LEADERS**  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES  
HEALING COMMUNITIES  
Luke 4:18-19

**What is the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme?**

“Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities” Based on the passage from Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

We are receiving this offering during the month of March. Special envelopes are in the pew racks for your support of this outreach effort.

Last year’s goal was \$700.00.



When there is a need we provide meals for those who would benefit from them - an illness, after surgery, shut-in for a period of time, temporary hardship – we call it our **Manna Meals Program**. In the Bible it was nourishment delivered to the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness to sustain them. Cindy Merriman is the coordinator for this outreach here at Franklin Park. If you would be willing to provide a meal (or part of a meal) for someone brought to our attention that is in need please call Cindy at 724-709-8889 or email [pwcsms@comcast.net](mailto:pwcsms@comcast.net). She will get in touch with you if a need arises. Also let her know if you would be available to deliver meals when needed.

Main dish



salad



dessert





During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. **The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing.** What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

### Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.  
Give up worry — trust God to provide.  
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.  
Give up anger — be more patient.  
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.  
Give up sin — turn to virtue.  
—Author unknown

Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.  
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.  
Give up hatred — return good for evil.  
Give up pettiness — become mature.  
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.  
Give up giving up — persevere.

### **CASH IN AT KINGS !**

Kings Location : **Wexford 910 and 79**  
Organization : **Franklin Park Baptist Church**  
Date: **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**  
Time: **6 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

*Present this coupon when paying your check and  
Our Summer Mission Group will receive 15% of  
your guest check total.*

***Our church benefits through your support of  
these ongoing projects –***  
*Scrip gift cards ~*  
*Aluminum can recycling ~*  
*AmazonSmile.com ~*  
*Newspapers and junk mail recycling ~*  
***Kings Coupon Day the second  
Wednesday of each month ~***

### Stop, Look and Listen

Lent, the season of the church year that's associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions. Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile," as well as "Stop doing wrong."
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

**Katelyn Dauer**, a senior at North Allegheny High School, made the 2017 EQT Student Side-by-Side event and will be playing with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on May 16, 2017. The concert is open to the public. Criteria for being chosen was a recommendation by her director, curriculum and extra-curricular activities, experience and maturity, enthusiasm and involvement in music. Katelyn is the daughter of Randy and Laurie Dauer and has 2 brothers, Jason and Jared. Congratulations –



SUPER JOB KATELYN !!

**Upcoming Dates and Events to Keep in Mind**

March 26 – April 9 food bank collection for the Mt. Nebo Food Bank  
 April 22 – World Vision warehouse sorting and packing 9 a.m. - Noon  
 April 29 – Flea market and sale



Spring

*Remember Our Shut-ins*

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Gene Worst</b><br/>                 Concordia of Franklin Park<br/>                 1600 Georgetown Dr.<br/>                 Sewickley, PA. 15143</p>  | <p><b>Dorothy McKinney</b><br/>                 Creek Meadows Personal Care<br/>                 1630 Ellwood City Road<br/>                 Zelienople, PA. 16063</p> | <p><b>Albert (Buck ) Bucklew</b><br/>                 Chicora Medical Center<br/>                 160 Medical Center Road<br/>                 Chicora, PA. 16025-2612</p>  | <p><b>Peggy Bucklew</b><br/>                 Chicora Medical Center<br/>                 160 Medical Center Road<br/>                 Chicora, PA. 16025-2612</p> |
| <p><b>Janet Tehois</b><br/>                 Broadmore Senior Living<br/>                 3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221<br/>                 Bridgeville, PA. 15017<br/>                 412-559-2813</p> | <p><b>George Green</b><br/>                 Cranberry Place<br/>                 5 St. Francis Way Room 122<br/>                 Cranberry Township, PA. 16066</p>     | <p><b>Mrs. Shirley Wright</b><br/>                 Passavant Retirement Community<br/>                 Trillium House Room 215<br/>                 Zelienople, PA. 16063<br/>                 Telephone 724-452-5400</p> |   |
| <p><b>Homebound - Jane Nagel &amp; Dale, Jr.</b><br/>                 4015 Wick Place<br/>                 Wexford, PA. 15090</p>  | <p><b>Gloria Meinert</b><br/>                 2915 Salisbury Court<br/>                 Wexford, PA. 15090</p>   | <p><b>Jean Downing</b><br/>                 2245 Montgomery Road<br/>                 Sewickley, PA. 15143</p>  | <p><b>Bill and Eleanor Mooney</b><br/>                 221 Chickasaw Avenue<br/>                 Pittsburgh, PA. 15237</p>  |



Dear Congregation,

Erik Kolodziej has enhanced our Sunday services for the past seven (7) plus months with his musical talents, playing the organ/piano and performing vocals. He has demonstrated his ability to direct with a special Christmas choir. We have been most fortunate to have a young man with so much capability and willingness helping us with the Sunday service music.

Erik has expressed his desire at this time not to pursue the Music Director position at F.P.B.C. He has agreed to extend his time with us as a contracted Interim Director through 2017 or less should a director be found. He will work to re-establish a choir and hand bells along with assisting the Music Search Committee find a permanent Music Director.

In Erik's words, "I have enjoyed the kind words from the congregation encouraging me to stay and that has made this decision quite difficult." I encourage the congregation to seek out Erik and express your gratitude for his helping us out and for making our Sunday service music special with his musical expertise.

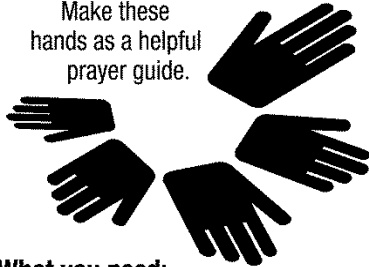
F.P.B.C. Council

Tom Beatty



# PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



## What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

## What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



## The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

*Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.*

*Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.*

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_ \_

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_ \_

When I am in \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ to you,  
 because you \_\_\_\_\_ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.

**Applications and flyers for Camp Judson programs are here !**  
 Beginning with second and third grades there are camps for all children through high school. You can also go to their website :  
[www.camjudson.com](http://www.camjudson.com) to see all the activities they offer.

**Franklin Park Baptist Church 2017 Church Officers, Ministry and Committee Members**

**Church Council 2017**

Jane Myers  
Marcy Hofstetter  
Tom Beatty  
Laurie Dauer  
Hank Cochran  
Scott Cunningham  
Paul Merriman

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Ron Merriman  
Dan Douglass  
John Moeller  
Earl Neely  
Dorothy Cress

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Cindy Merriman

**Financial Secretary**

Lois Exton

**Church Treasurer**

Angie Cochran

**Auditing Committee**

Jordan Frazier  
Melissa Maxwell

**Christian Education**

Margaret Kelly  
Anne Cress  
Jamie Lopez  
Michele O'Leary  
Leslie Worst

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Emilie Gildernew  
Randy Dauer  
Christy Nichols  
Ralph Whipple

**Finance Committee**

Rich Hughey  
Cindy Merriman

**Nominating Committee**

Rich Hughey  
Doug Frazier  
Ellen McKenna  
Rich Worst  
Jane Myers

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Sandy Hughey  
Debbie Moeller  
  
Carol Jean Keefer  
John Moeller  
Linda Raraigh

**Task Personnel**

**Prayer Chain** - Lois Gobrecht  
**Greeters** - Nancy McNaughton  
  
**Children's Message** - Carol Jean Keefer  
**Communion** - Kristen Doria  
Gordon Bonham  
**Floral Arrangements** - Sandy Hughey

**Guiding Lights**

Nancy McNaughton

### The Waiting Game

Life involves lots of waiting. We wait in groups, in lines, in cars. We wait for packages, for the bus, for the sun to rise. We wait in doctors' offices, at the post office, at the DMV. Waiting implies we're at someone else's mercy, but it's also usually linked to hope. Perhaps that's why Paul Tillich called waiting a metaphor for faith. Why would one wait if there weren't the firm belief that the object of one's wait will eventually materialize?

Waiting can be enervating, which is why Isaiah 40:31 is so promising: "They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Yet waiting is tough if you have nothing to do while waiting. That's why Jesus, when talking about waiting, also talked about working — work for the night is coming. Sometimes it's less tiring to work than it is to wait.

There's a lot of waiting during Lent. You're waiting for a payoff. You're waiting for the Resurrection. You're waiting for spiritual growth. And then you realize this isn't waiting at all. It's life. It's joy. It's opportunity. It's blessing.

- Timothy Merrill

**Our Mission Team** is collecting non-perishable items for the Mt Nebo Food Bank this Easter Season . We will be collecting the food from Sunday March 26-Sunday April 9th . There will be a basket in the back of the Sanctuary where you can put your donations. You can also give a monetary donation if you would rather. Any questions see one of Mission Team Members.

[ Rick Raraigh, Randy Dauer, Emilie Gildernew, Ralph Whipple, Christy Nichols, Marcy Hofstetter ]



**Feeding the Community**



**Keep the date !!!! Saturday April 22nd 9am-noon** We will be making a trip to the World Vision Warehouse in Glenfield to help, unpack and sort boxes. This has always been a great time of fun and fellowship. More information to come next month.

See Marcy if you have any questions.