

The Shepherd's Staff

**Community Presbyterian Church
Cathedral City, California**



March 2012



There are so many ways in which we use the word 'season.' We are in the middle of 'The Season' for Palm Springs. The year is divided into seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. People have seasons in their lives which correspond to the seasons of the year. Food is seasoned. We may say that person's speech was seasoned with many graphic stories. Lumber is seasoned or prepared for use by drying. We celebrate the seasons of the church year.

The church's calendar is divided into seasons, like Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, etc. Each season of the church year focuses on some aspect of Jesus' life and ministry. Each season provides us with the opportunity to grow our faith and to know Jesus better. You could say that the seasons of the church year help us to season our faith – that is to add spice or flavor that enhances our faith as well as prepare us for use.

On Wednesday, February 22nd, the forty-day Season of Lent began. On Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross. The ashes remind us of our mortality and humanity and echo many Biblical stories where ashes were a sign of repentance. The ashes set the tone for Lent. Lent is often considered a somber time because it is the time during which Jesus' ministry leads him to Jerusalem and his death on the cross on Good Friday. Lent offers us a time to consider what Jesus' death on the cross means to each of us.

During Lent as we dwell on this period of Jesus' life, the focus is on examining and enhancing our relationship with God; growing our faith. There are several ways to do this examining and enhancing, but the intent of doing so is to open ourselves up before God and to recognize and respond in a new way to God's presence in our lives and in the world.

What can we do to grow our faith during Lent? Some people follow the Lenten practice of denial which usually means giving up something meaningful. For example, a person may give up a favorite food or drink – like chocolate or wine. By denying something enjoyed we remind ourselves in some small way of Christ suffering for us, of Christ giving up his life for each of us so we may have forgiveness of sins and life eternal. More recently, some Christians have taken on the Lenten practice of doing something extra for their personal faith or for others. For example, a person may add additional prayer time each day during Lent or may add more Bible reading to help grow that individual's faith. Or a person may choose to volunteer for charity work or take on a special project at church. This Lenten practice of service reminds us of Jesus' care and concern for others and of God's love for all of humanity.

No matter what Lenten practice you follow, I pray that each of you will draw nearer to Christ and find in his death and resurrection a great resource for your faith journey and Christian life.

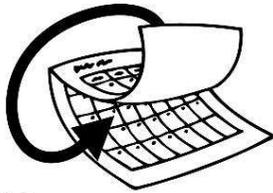
Pastor Lee

MARCH 2012: SPECIAL DATES



Sunday, March 4
Thursday, March 8
Wednesday, March 14
Wednesday, March 14
Friday, March 16
Saturday, February 17
Sunday, March 25

First Sunday Potluck
9:00am Session Meeting
9:00am Deacons Meeting
10:00am Women's Circle
Fish Dinner
11:10am Story Time
Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall



*Save
the Dates*

Future Important Church Dates

Sunday, April 1 Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 8 Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 21 Story Time

FISH DINNER

The next fish dinner is fast approaching. Please be sure to see Butch or Nancy to buy tickets you do not want to miss out on this delicious dinner and fellowship. The dinner will be March 16th from 5-7pm. The funds received will go to the church general fund.



March Birthdays

Lee Ireland March 8
Ann Matheson March 17

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord, make us mindful of your power and your glory as we pray for those in need.
Our Service Men & Women, Our Country & Our President
Pray for our Church at 12:00 noon daily

Death of a Loved One

Comfort and peace for the families of:

Lily, Reed's mom
Camilla
Katy Barard
Roy, Rebeka's brother in law

Recovery

Maxine – on hospice
Betty Meade – Recovering at Manor Care
Matt – quick healing
Tammy – new liver
Barrett's daughter, Donna suffering with 'Black Mold'
Debbie's friend Jon stage 3 colon cancer
Peggy Bakke healing for a respiratory problem
Betty's great granddaughter, 3 month old Teegan – continued healing and guidance for doctors
Andy Anderson – home and using a walker
Louise – healing

Continuing Health Concerns

Rena
Sherry – cancer
Jerry – neuropathy
Larry's friend Vickey Powel – doctors wisdom
Noel's friend Ben – cancer – and his wife Angie
Diana Owens kidney transplant
Peggy's daughter Kim struggling with circulation in her legs
Gail Prosser
Patty Valdez
LaVida Warren

Community and World Concerns

Employment for; Paula, Andrew, Manny & Tanya
MJ's children Evan & Lauren guidance and support

Our Marine's safety as he returns to active duty

Prayer concerns in addition to those expressed during Sunday's worship service may be submitted on the prayer request cards in the pews or by contacting the church office. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Please Pray for the Mission Activities of the church as well

Neonatal unit blankets and baby items	Desert Summer Kids Feeding Program
Twenty-nine 29 Palms Marine Base Wounded Warrior	Life Line subsidies
Well in the Desert	Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Scholarship for graduates of Cathedral City HS	Migrant Farm Workers – bedrolls and food
VA & Stroke Centers	Shelter from the Storm
Clothes That Work	Ronald McDonald House
One Great Hour of Sharing	Veterans hospital Loma Linda
Alternative Christmas	Baby kits for Haiti
School supplies for Sky Ridge Mobile Home Park Kids	2 Cents-a-Meal

March 2012 Prayer Calendar

Please pray for each individual on the date listed

1) 1 Kings 17:1-16
God feeds the widow
MJ Bradley

2) Isaiah 66:7-13
God as a nursing mother
Doug Bridges

3) Exodus 24:12-18
Moses enters the cloud of
God's glory
Brown Family

4) Matthew 17:1-9
2 Sunday in Lent
Julee Colling

5) Psalm 2
Shining with the glory of God
David & Opal Eason

6) 2 Peter 1:16-21
Shining with the glory of God
Carol Frances

7) Acts 7:30-34
Moses on holy ground
Rebeca Franz

8) Romans 11:1-6
A Remnant chosen by grace
Dick Gampert

9) Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Kay Graham

10) Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Eating of the tree of knowledge
Art & Karin Grice

11) Matthew 4:1-11
3rd Sunday in Lent
Clint & Marti Haas

12) Psalm 32
Mercy embraces us
Butch & Eloise Haltman

13) Romans 5:12-19
Death comes, life comes
Maxine Heldenbrand

14) Hebrew 2:10-18
Christ goes before us in suffering
Winnie Hockenbery

15) Hebrews 4:14-5:10
Christ was tempted as we are
Kirk & Nancy Horton

16) Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28
God's revelation of mercy
Carol Hoskins

17) Genesis 12:1-4a
The blessing of God upon Abram
Helen Hyde

18) John 3:1-17
4th Sunday in Lent
Lee Ireland & Linda Hamilton

19) Psalm 121
The Lord watches over you
Hazel Jacobsen

20) Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
The promise to those of Abra-
ham's faith
Reed & Mary Karr

21) Numbers 21:4-9
Moses lifts up the serpent
Betty Leehan

22) Romans 4:6-13
Abraham saved through faith
Matt & Ann Matheson

23) Ezekiel 36:22-32
God will renew the people
Florence Maybee

24) Exodus 17:1-7
Water from the rock
Betty Meade

25) John 4:5-42
5th Sunday in Lent
Gerald & Joy Moss

26) Psalm 95
The rock of our salvation
Pat & Annette Patteron

27) Romans 5:1-11
Reconciled to God by Christ's
death
Jay Peck

28) Genesis 29:1-27
Rebecca at the well
Maryls Peck

29) Genesis 29:1-14
Rachel at the well
Gail Prosser

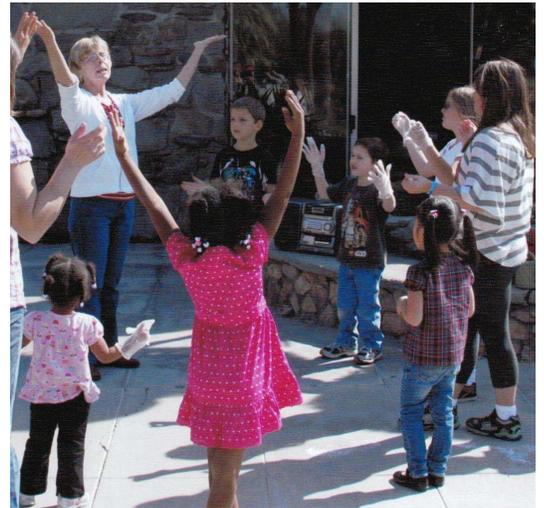
30) Jeremiah 2:4-13
God, the living water
Nancy Pryor

31) 1 Samuel 16:1-13
David is chosen and anointed
Bertha Rawlings

February IST



Saturday Feb 18th a dozen children sang and danced to "Walking on Sunshine" with Mary Karr. My girls are still singing it at home and marching around swinging their arms. MJ read a story about sunflowers and a story about a little girl who knew who she wanted to be no matter what others said about her. The message being that we are all beautiful and created by God. The children each got to decorate their own floor pots and plant sunflower seeds. They also planted some small and large sunflower seeds along the upper parking area. We look forward to seeing these flowers bloom. Next month the children will learn all about bugs and how even the smallest of creatures is important to God.



We are Sunflowers

We are sunflowers
Though our colors may fade,
Our stalks wither brown,
We never ever ever frown.
We make people smile,
It's what we do
We are sunflowers through and through!

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
38088 Chuperosa Lane
Cathedral City CA, 92234

We're on the Web:
www.churchinthecove.org

Who We Are



We are a church family who care for each other and all of God's people. We celebrate worship each Sunday, thanking and praising God for the wonderful gifts generously given to us. We then go out into the world to share God's love with all we meet. We are strengthened for service and outreach through small group outreach activities and weekly Bible study. All are welcome to join us as we seek to glorify and serve our risen Lord.