



United Methodist Temple
March 2020 Newsletter ~ Volume III

Questions and Deeper Questions for Lent

Christians have been talking about—or scholars have been debating, or people have been whining about—when to schedule Easter for almost as long as there have been Christians.

A question of no small importance arose at that time [the time of **Pope Victor I** c. 190]. The dioceses of all Asia, according to an ancient tradition, held that the fourteenth day [τεσσαρεσκαίδεκάτην], on which day the Jews were commanded **to sacrifice the lamb**, should always be observed as **the feast of the life-giving pasch** (ἐπὶ ταῖς τοῦ σωτηρίου Πάσχα ἑορταῖς), contending that the fast ought to end on that day, whatever day of the week it might happen to be. However it was not the custom of the churches in the rest of the world to end it at this point, as they observed the practice, which from Apostolic tradition has prevailed to the present time, of terminating the fast on no other day than on that of the Resurrection of our Saviour.

--- **Eusebius of Caesarea** (*Church History*, V, xxiii)

—or—

Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the paschal full moon date. The paschal full moon date is the ecclesiastical full moon date on or after 21 March. The Gregorian method derives paschal full moon dates by **determining** the epact for **each year**. The epact can have a value from * (0 or 30) to 29 days.

—or—

In 325 CE, the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

—or—

Several attempts have sought to achieve a common method for computing the date of Easter. In 1997 the **World Council of Churches** proposed a reform of the method of determining the date of Easter^[10] at a summit in **Aleppo, Syria**: Easter would be defined as the first Sunday following the first **astronomical full moon** following the astronomical **vernal equinox**, as determined from the **meridian of Jerusalem**. The reform would have been implemented starting in 2001, since in that year the Eastern and Western dates of Easter would coincide. This reform has not been implemented.

Many of these efforts proved meaningful, I'm sure. But, as in the case of the Synod of Whitby, the question about when to schedule Easter was a question on the surface of things: In the Synod of Whitby in 664, King Oswiu of Northumbria ruled that his kingdom would calculate Easter and observe the monastic tonsure according to the customs of Rome rather than the customs practiced by Irish monks at Iona and its satellite institutions.

(All these examples were drawn from the internet effort to date Easter on February 27, 2020).

What was at stake during the Synod was a straightforward question for theology and history: When shall we celebrate Easter? What was at stake for the world was a different question: How much influence shall Rome have in Britain? After the debate in the Synod of Whitby, the whole Celtic culture gradually withdrew to parts of Ireland. This answer to the deeper question—Who is going to be in charge here?—reshaped the world.

When should we celebrate Easter? That was a real question. But, there was a deeper question; a question nobody asked out loud. What are the questions we ask today in all that we do, but never out loud?

The Harvard Negotiations Project, a years-long effort in Harvard University, suggests there are three questions people ask again and again. They almost never ask out loud. They ask in sub-text, in the unspoken parts of their conversations. The three questions are:

Am I a good person? Am I competent? Am I worthy of love?

The Project suggests that one, two, or all three of these questions remain unanswered—or inadequately answered—from our childhood.

Is there a deeper question in your life? A question that has gone unanswered or inadequately answered for far too long? Is there a question that you have not asked out loud? A question the answer to which might change your life dramatically?

What might that question be? What sort of answer would you accept?

'Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger'.

—St. Patrick

May this season be a blessing to you, with grace upon grace, and love beyond love!

John Griswold



Lenten Study - "The Walk"

Pastor John will be leading a 6 week study entitled "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. The study will be about *Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life.* It will be held on

Wednesday mornings starting at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

**TO Our Wonderful Congregation and friends of
CGIS/Christian Girls in Service**



We want to "Thank You" for supporting our 36th year of ministry. We have to confess...it's a fun ministry, not only the fellowship of love, but the ultimate goal of giving IN love. The Valentine Candy project is a big commitment. It takes 5 days from start to finish not counting planning, ordering and buying supplies. So you see where the big commitment comes in. I want to report that this year is our biggest year EVER on profits and it's because of your generosity. So many of you gave "over and above" your order. "Thank You" so much!! So, I want to report a profit of over \$1,400, of which a 10% tithe will go to our church. The balance of \$1,260 will be divided among the 4 ministries on the back of your order blank. "Thank You", girls and guys for your hard work and "Thank you" again to our Valentines.

In Christ's Love,
as He smiles on us,
Dianna



Dine Abouts

The Dine Abouts will be going out to lunch on Sunday, March 8th following worship. They will be going to "Spice Thai." If you plan on joining them, please call Brenda Dorn (644-5250).



INDOOR YARD SALE

CGIS/Elizabeth Circle is having an Indoor Yard Sale on Saturday, March 14th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you have any items you would like to donate, the church is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM or call Chris Bowne to make arrangements.



March Calendar of Events

3-1

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:00 AM Worship

11:30 AM Pot Luck lunch

3-3

Girl Scouts

3-4

10:30 AM Lenten study

6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

3-5

9:30 AM Kids Pack packing and delivery

Girl Scouts

3-6

World Day of Prayer

3-7

3:00 PM Kindermusik Jubilee in Barnett Hall

3-8

2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time begins

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM Dine Abouts to Spice Thai

3-9

10:00 AM Elizabeth Circle

3-11

10:30 AM Lenten study

6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

3-12

9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery

3-14

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Indoor Yard Sale

3-15

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

3-17

St. Patrick's Day

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM Presidential Preference Election

6:30 PM United Methodist Men

3-18

10:30 AM Lenten study

6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

3-19

Girl Scouts

9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery

3-20 First Day of Spring

3-22

9:00 AM Sunday school

10:30 AM Worship

3-24

5:30 PM Finance Committee
6:00 PM Administrative Council

3-25

10:30 AM Lenten study
6:30 PM Choir rehearsal

3-26

9:30 AM Kids Pack delivery

3-29

9:00 Am Sunday school
10:30 AM Worship



Happy March Birthday to:

3-1 Andrea Goodson
3-7 Suzanne Maxson
3-17 Neil Bare
Pat Morris
3-10 Jessie Ward
3-20 Dottie Dufresne
3-23 Bob Wells
3-24 Catherine Burdette
Ruby Hopwood
Charlie Merritt

Happy March Anniversary to:

3-17 Jay & Amy Benningfield
3-19 John & Mary Adams
3-21 Pat & Janet Harris

3-26 Amy Benningfield

3-20 Dean Parshley