February 2020

Prayers of The People
Pray for anyone who suffers from any kind of grief, trouble or illness especially Art, John, Bill, Jean, Marion, Charlene, Dawn, Sheri, Nick, Eleanor, Nicholas, Tina, Nancy, Alison, Kaz, Michael, Janne, Krystal, Cindy, Libby, Robyn and Gud. Deliver them from their distress.
Pray for those serving in our armed forces especially. Casey, Nicholas, Jim, Trevor, Aaron, Christine, Alan, Mitchell, Emily, Steven, Chris, the 268th Red Horse Squadron and the 39th U.S. Air Force Bomb Squadron. Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.

Thanks for all the cards, emails, phone calls and texts that you sent me when I was “under the weather” this last week. I was so pleased to hear that I was in your thoughts and prayers. I am much better now and am looking forward to Lent and Easter.

The Worship Committee has some special events planned for Lent this year, one of which includes a 5 week Bible Study which will begin on Wednesday morning, March 4th at 11:00 in the conference room. It will be concluded at 12:00 noon with the Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary.

I looked at three different Lenten Bible Study Series that I thought might be appropriate for Lent, but after reading through them I wasn’t sure which one would be the most suitable for us. So I decided to let you chose. I’ve made a copy of the first chapter of each of the three for your review. You can pick up a copy after the service on Sunday in the Guild Hall on the front table. Let me know which of the three you like the best.

Let me close with words from Psalm 84, “No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity. O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!”.

Community Meal Information
We served roast pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and peas at the January Community Meal. The total cost of the meal was $178. We took in $138 in donations. We served 63 meals at table and handed out 48 to-go meals. This month’s meal will be on February 20th and the menu will be chicken and noodles.

Flower Chart
The new flower chart is posted on the kitchen door in the Guild Hall. Please sign-up on the chart if you would like to donate and dedicate flowers. Be sure to include any special dedications you would like mentioned in the bulletin.

February Ladies Night Out
The next “Ladies Night Out” event will be held on Tuesday, February 25th (4:30 PM) at The Jolly Rodger. Please call Sue to let us know you are coming or sign-up in the Guild Hall.

Lenten Activities in March
Saint Thomas will have several special activities scheduled during the season of Lent. Please stay tuned. A list and description of these activities will be available in the next edition of the newsletter.

Kindergarten Kick-Off and Screening
Port Clinton City Schools is looking for any children, who will be 5-years-old by August 1st to register for the Kindergarten screening. Please contact the Board of Education by March 2nd to pre-register. 419-732-2102. Please use our saintthomaspcoh@gmail.com.

The cross.net email account is permanently closed. If you need to email the church, please use the Gmail address listed above. Thank you.

Annual Meeting Information
John Bolte, our treasurer, noted a significant increase contributions during 2019, which helped Saint Thomas support a full-time pastor. He also noted that the value of our investments increased just under $75K, $55K of which was used to cover church expenses. This increase is in contrast to the $42K loss the church’s investments saw in 2018. Finally, John proposed the new annual budget for 2020.

Pastor Beverly noted several changes made to church activities including a change to the service time from 9 to 10 AM during the winter months, introduction to Saint Thomas Tidings, the church newsletter, and “Ladies Night Out,” a monthly get together for ladies of the church. Deacon George will be with us again this summer, and we have a new organist, Carson Weingart. Saint Thomas also hosted the Community Thanksgiving Service this year and participated in several community activities including the Community Good Friday Service, Longest Night Service and Valentine’s Day Luncheon for Widows.

Bill, our Junior Warden explained that the church’s front steps had been refurbished and sealed, the interior doors were removed and the wobbly cross on the Eastern side of the roof reinforced.

For more information about the issues discussed during this meeting, please contact Sue at the church office.

Joke of the Month
A little girl with a bad cough was taken by her parents to Urgent Care. The nurse examining her with a stethoscope said, “I have to listen to your heart to see if Elmo is in there.”

The little girl replied, “Jesus is in my heart. Elmo is on my underwear.”
February Birthdays
Sue Hejhal – February 1st
Sue Homsy – January 21st

Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives.

Please let us know the date of your birthday or anniversary so that we may include it in future editions of the newsletter.

Recipe of the month
Recipe: Valentine’s Day Peanut Butter Kisses

Ingredients:
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup shortening
3/4 cup peanut butter
1 egg
2 T milk
1 t vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 t baking soda
1/2 t salt
Red or pink granulated sugar
48 heart-shaped milk chocolates

1. Cream together sugar, shortening and peanut butter.
2. Add egg and vanilla and mix till well combined.
3. Add flour, baking soda and salt.
4. Sprinkle milk on top of dry ingredients and then mix till everything comes together (if the mixture is too crumbly, add more milk by the tablespoon).
5. Roll dough into 48 balls, and roll in sugar.
6. Bake 11-14 minutes in 375 degree oven.
7. Remove from oven and immediately press chocolate heart into each cookie. Allow to sit on pan for 2 minutes.
8. Remove from pan and allow to cool completely on a wire rack before serving.

Meet Saint Brigid of Kildare
St. Brigid of Kildare or often referred to as St. Brigid of Ireland is one of Ireland’s patron saints along with St. Patrick and St. Columba. She was one of the earliest Irish nuns and is credited with founding a number of Monastic houses for nuns.

Born in 451 CE, in what is now Louth, Ireland, her feast day is February 1st, which was originally a Pagan festival called “Imbolc” a time when the Irish celebrated the midway point between winter and spring.

St. Brigid is known for her healing powers and her generous nature, once giving away all of her father’s clothing to a poor beggar who was in rags. A great friend of St. Patrick, legend says he was with at her death in 525 CE.

St. Brigid was an educator, a journalist, and a lover of the arts, founding a school for young artists specializing in different types of metal work.

The Prayer of St. Brigid:
Ask for us today, the courage to do God’s bidding whatever the world may say.
The grace to be strong and valiant, the grace to be firm and true, the grace to be faithful always to God, to God’s mother and to you.

Saint Brigid is depicted in this image holding a cross made from rushes and a bowl a “Brigid’s Fire,” like her zeal to help the poor said never to be extinguished.

Contact Information
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Service Time and Office Hours
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
All are welcome at our communion table.
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30 AM-2:30 PM