

BEULAH BEACON

SEASON OF LENT AND DISCERNMENT

By Pastor Don Gibson

The discerning sets his/her face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth - Proverbs 17:24 (ESV)

Hello all and blessings, I pray you are well, blessed, and hope filled. Just last Wednesday, we embarked on a journey, a tradition for many - the season of Lent. We gathered for food and fellowship and then settled in the sanctuary to hear the sacred words of death and life, promise and hope—"from the dust you have come, to the dust you shall return, but thanks be to God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord!" Those words followed the imposition of ashes and an invitation for each Christian to look toward the cross and resurrection. This year, along with the invitation to look ahead, we as a church are invited to exercise a unique gift of God (the gift of discernment) along the journey.

As you may know, our recent past has is filled with many meetings and conversations regarding "the future of the church, our church." As Christians, we believe that our ultimate source of wisdom and truth, for this special season and in each day of life, comes from God. Discernment is a gift of God that helps us identify right from wrong. It is the process of examining what is good and bad, what is truth or a lie, and what is better and best. We know our hearts are deceitful and often easily distracted. We cannot stake our life decisions on our feelings, our thoughts, or those of others alone (Jeremiah 17:9). We face important decisions daily. There is so much in our world grappling for our attention. Discernment is more necessary now than ever to protect us against false teaching and enable us to walk in the path of holiness. Here are three practical ways to help jump-start this Season of Lent and Discernment:

1. Cultivate a discerning spirit by asking for wisdom. Scripture reminds us that wisdom will not come without desire, effort, and request from us. Solomon was known as a great ruler because he did not ask for riches or jewels, but rather he asked for wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:1-15). We must make a habit of calling out for insight and wisdom. We must take part in cultivating a spirit of discernment by prayerfully asking for wisdom and by searching the scriptures to understand what exactly truth is and what is a lie.

2. Cultivate a discerning spirit by reading, studying, and practicing the Word of God. In a world where the word "truth" is subjective, we ought to be even more clear on what the Truth is. God's word discerns our thoughts and intentions and if we want to be wise, loving, patient, gentle, kind, and God-glorifying followers of Christ, then we must submit ourselves to the Word of God and allow it to shape and mold us.

3. Cultivate a discerning spirit by turning away from evil. Job 28:28 says, "And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.' We cannot cultivate a spirit of discernment if we continue to engage in activities that are clearly against the truth and the commands of God's Word. Fearing the Lord implies we honor the Lord and obey His voice. A discerning heart seeks repentance and intentionally decides to walk away from sin. Wisdom is not only what we know, but it is what we do with what we know.

I pray these words are both encouraging and helpful! I pray we will practice these words to know, beyond a shadow of doubt, what the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God is for us, our church, and our community! (Romans 12:2)



FEATURED ARTICLES

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MUSIC NOTES

By Deborah Wenrich

I like to research the history of hymns and the stories behind them. I chose these two for March 2023, I hope that you enjoy reading them.

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing was penned by Charles Wesley for Sunday, May 21, 1739, to celebrate his conversion's first anniversary, which happened on Pentecost Sunday. His poem was published first in "A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodist". The original had 18 verses, verse 7 is the beginning of the song as we know it today. Lowell Mason arranged Carl G. Glaser's tune AZMON, to be the music for this hymn. Glaser was also a contemporary of Beethoven and a German composer. History of Hymns: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Ms. Sanders, 2013, June 7

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-o-for-a-thousand-tongues-to-sing>

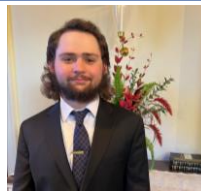
Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior was written by Fanny Crosby who became blind at the age of six weeks from a mustard plaster put on her eyes by a doctor. She began writing poems at the age of six. She wrote this song when she visited a prison in 1868. After she had spoken and some of her hymns had been sung, one of the inmates cried out, "Good Lord do not pass me by". Upon hearing that, Fanny went home and penned the words to "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior".

History of Hymns: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" Dr Hawn, 2013, June 14

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-pass-me-not-o-gentle-savior>

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

New Member Zachary Glazier: Please welcome Zachary Glazier as an official member of the Beulah family. Although Zachary grew up at Beulah, on February 5, during the 11:00 am worship service, he pledged his commitment to participate in the ministries here at Beulah through his prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



February 22: On February 22, Beulah started the Lenten season with over 80 people in attendance during the Ash Wednesday Service. Before this service was the first Wednesday Worship Meal of the year, and nine youths started the confirmation process. We are looking forward to Easter when many will receive their baptism and everyone will step up to become active members of Beulah.



Mariners New Classroom: On Sunday, February 26 the Mariners class moved from the Education building to room 109 in the main building.



Baptism of Michael Spaulding: On Sunday, February 26, during the 11:00 am service, Michael Spaulding, the grandson of Eric and Tina Cunningham, was baptized. Please pray for Michael and his parents, Ryan and Morgan, as he continues to grow and know Christ.



THIS MONTH'S COMMUNION OFFERING



<https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

(From the UMCOR website)

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, also known as UMCOR, assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. To donate to this ministry please write "communion" on your envelope or check and place in the communion offering baskets after receiving your communion.



SHERBOURNE FOOD PANTRY

During the month of March, the Sherbourne Food Pantry is asking for donations of Peanut Butter and Jelly. Peanut Butter is an easy, inexpensive protein source that is brimming with nutrition. Children enjoy peanut butter and various flavors of jellies and jams. There are alternatives such as almond butter and sunflower butter for those with peanut allergies. Donations can be left on the wire rack by the Information Center or in the white after-hours donation cabinet in the Breezeway. All donations will go towards our 2023 goal of 5,000 lbs. of food for Sherbourne.

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

MARCH READING

01	II Corinthians 6	16	Ephesians 1
02	II Corinthians 7	17	Ephesians 2
03	II Corinthians 8	18	Ephesians 3
04	II Corinthians 9	19	Sunday (Catch-up day)
05	Sunday (Catch-up day)	20	Ephesians 4
06	II Corinthians 10	21	Ephesians 5
07	II Corinthians 11	22	Ephesians 6
08	II Corinthians 12	23	Philippians 1
09	II Corinthians 13	24	Philippians 2
10	Galatians 1	25	Philippians 3
11	Galatians 2	26	Sunday (Catch-up day)
12	Sunday (Catch-up day)	27	Philippians 4
13	Galatians 3	28	Colossians 1
14	Galatians 4	29	Colossians 2
15	Galatians 5-6	30	Colossians 3
		31	Colossians 4

Emet... "Truth"

By Barry Iglehart

Several years ago, there was a movie called *Enemy Mine*. Humans were at war with an alien race and one scene has stuck with me ever since. Opposing soldiers marooned on a hostile and forbidding world. Portrayed by Louis Gosset, Jr., and Dennis Quaid, they were forced to cooperate in order to survive. To show this they were learning each other's language. They alien wore a pendant that contained sacred writings and was called the "Tal-Mut"(sic). The human was asked to read the text and then translate.

"Repay not evil with evil but do kindness... Wait! I've heard this before!"

"Where?" asked the alien.

"In the Earth's 'Tal-Mut'!" replied the human.

"Truth is truth" said the alien, "no matter where you find it."

I believe this... If God is God and created the universe, the whole universe, then He would somehow speak to that universe. To the whole Universe. God shows His grace to us in a unique way through His Son, Jesus. We look around and see Him everywhere. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:20 that God is so much revealed in the natural realm that people are really without excuse if they don't follow Him in some way even without hearing the gospel in some way.

My point is this. If we look for Him, we will find Him, and in finding Him we will find the truth. Shalom and Amen.

UWF MISSION WITNESS

The Daily Prayer Guider is published annually by United Women in Faith. It invites us to pray as one people responsive to God's call to relationships of caring, connecting and healing in a world of uncertainty in all but the love of God. Each month we share a testimony from a person in mission for Christ through the United Methodist Church.

Scripture for the Month

Though the fig tree doesn't bloom, and there's no produce on the vine though the olive crop withers, and the fields don't provide food...I will rejoice in the Lord. I will rejoice in the God of my deliverance.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Witness

There is a place, a garden, I like to go to for "time out." I enjoy the privilege of meeting with God in the solitude of the place. I go with my Bible and diary; I walk and sit and read and ask God to speak. Most times, God's voice is very clear. I see God's words in what is going on around me – in winding paths, dead leaves, new growth, small waterfalls, clear (or cloudy) pools, the activities of small creatures. One day, I went there with a great burden of sadness. I sat in a secluded place on the ground and began to cry. A gardener I had not noticed passed by. He peered into the little grove and asked: "Are you alright?" The words of a stranger, few as they were, were comforting; they touched my heart. I saw that in our daily routines and work, we often pass by a number of people and not all of them are "alright." Where appropriate, it might be healing to simply ask: Is everything ok? Perhaps we don't need to say any more. The words may be few, but the impact is great if God's hand is at work.

- Margaret Jane Kies, Global Missionary from South Africa serving in Zimbabwe, Africa University

Prayer

Please pray for international missionaries serving in Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Dominican Republic, and our United States missionaries serving in District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, and Hawaii.

BEULAH ANNUAL TEA

The Beulah Annual Tea benefits Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence Survivors through Safe Harbor. Come join us for afternoon tea **Saturday, March 18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm** – fun, fellowship and relaxation. Entrance fee is \$10.00. You can bring your favorite teacup or mug. (One will be provided if you don't wish to bring one.) If you want to join in the teacup exchange, bring another cup for that in a gift bag. Sign up to attend in the Breezeway (weather permitting) and/or in the Information Center after 8:30 service and before & after 11:00 service on **March 5, and March 12**. You can pay at sign up or when you arrive at the tea.

EASTER EGGS AND CANDY

Our Easter Egg Hunt is approaching! As we are preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt, your help is needed. We are seeking donations of snack-size sweets* and Easter eggs. All donations can be brought to the buckets in the Narthex. Collections will be held until **March 26!** *No sweets with peanuts for allergy safety reasons.

Annual Easter EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 01, 2023
FROM 1 TO 3 PM**

Free Admission



Holy Week

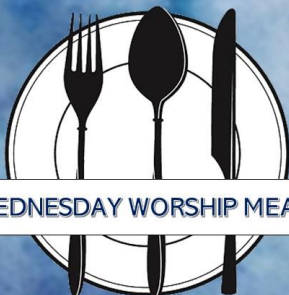


April 1	Easter Egg Hunt*	1:00 pm
April 2	Palm Sunday Services	8:30 am & 11:00 am
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm
April 7	Good Friday Service	7:00 pm
April 9	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 am
	Easter Sunday Service	11:00 am

*Easter Egg Hunt Rain Date, April 2, 2023, 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP MEALS

From now until April 26 (April 6 is on Maundy Thursday) we will be gathering every Wednesday for Wednesday Worship Meals. This is a time to gather as a church family for a meal and fellowship with God and each other. If you would like to attend a meal, please sign up (the week prior to the meal) at the Information Center so we will know how many plates to have prepared. All meals are by donation. Please check the schedule to see what is being served when.



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP MEAL SCHEDULE

March 01	Mariners
March 08	Rebekah Fellowship
March 15	Senior Council
March 22	Mary Farmer Circle of Love
March 29	Ruth Robertson
April 06	United Methodist Men
April 12	Youth
April 19	Wesleyan Stratton
April 26	Crusaders

MARCH CALENDAR

BEULAH'S BEST

Beulah's Best will meet Tuesday, March 21, at 10:00 am in the Fellow Hall. Our program will once again be presented by the Smokehouse Bluegrass band. If you missed them in February, you now have this great opportunity to experience this enjoyable music program.

THE CARD MINISTRY

The card ministry sends cards to members of the military and first responders. If you have a family member who is military or a first responders, and you would like them included in this ministry please contact Beth VanDenBerg at 804-304-0812.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is happening! From Tuesday, June 20, to Friday, June 23, elementary school students from the community will be coming to have a week of FUN BIBLE SCHOOL. Please save the date and share the news! If you wish to volunteer, please contact Pastor Daniel Chun or Karen Clanton!

THANKS

To: Beulah UMC

From: Candice Davis and Collene D Armistead

Thank you for the many cards, good thoughts and prayers sent to our father. He enjoyed Beulah's Best get together, fellowship, and food. Our parents made new friends at BUMC and enjoyed many years there. He appreciated being remembered, even when he moved to the Lucy Corr Assisted Living.

To: Beulah

From: Nancy Cowardin

I would like to say thank you to all the angels who have helped me during my sickness. Thank you for the cards, prayers, rides, being there by my side, and your continued support. I would like to especially thank Pastor Don, Christy, and the rest of the Gibson family.

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Jennifer Smith | 12 Rebecca Brooks |
| 02 Rosanna Strauss | 15 Norvell Jenkins |
| 03 Dale Childrey | Richard Robertson |
| 05 Bobby Glick | 16 Glynn Soyars |
| Carole Morris | 19 Doris Gilmore |
| 06 Kenneth Foster | 20 Debra Bates |
| Ronald Mann | 21 Sandra Saunders |
| 07 Joan Garton | Linda Taylor |
| Deborah Rhodes | Dylan Tyler |
| 08 Taylor Cunningham | 22 Susan Iglehart |
| 10 Sandra Goodwin | 23 Abigail White |
| | 24 Valerie Glazier |

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|----------------------|
| 25 Gene Coward |
| James Harris |
| 29 Teresa Hart |
| 30 Morgan Cunningham |
| Riley Turner |
| 31 Charles Snow |

APRIL

- | |
|-------------------|
| 02 Hilda Taylor |
| 05 Charles Dudley |
| 07 Jerry Lane |

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|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 03 | Mariners Dinner |
| 07 | Hugging Hearts |
| 12 | Mission Meeting |
| 13 | Ruth Robertson Friendship Circle |
| 14 | Finance Meeting |
| | Mary Farmer Circle of Love |
| 15 | Beulah Pool |
| | Wesleyan Stratton |
| 16 | Rebekah Fellowship |
| 18 | Annual Beulah Tea |
| 21 | Beulah's Best |
| | Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| | Springdale Bible Study |
| | Hugging Hearts |
| | UMM Dinner and Meeting |
| 23 | UWF Meeting |
| 24 | Bells of Praise Trip |
| 26 | Town Hall Meeting |
| 31 | Historical Society |

REOCCURRING WEEKLY

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | 8:30 Worship |
| | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 Worship |
| | Children and Youth Bells |
| | Youth |
| Monday | Card Ministry |
| | Men's Bible Study |
| | Discerning the Voice of God |
| | Ensemble Rehearsal |
| | Bells of Praise Rehearsal |
| | Scouts |
| Tuesday | Cub Scouts |
| Wednesday | Sanctuary Open for Prayer |
| | Staff Meeting |
| | Confirmation Class |
| | Wednesday Worship Meal |
| Thursday | Beulah Land Quartet |
| | Discernment Team |
| | Family Group Night |
| | Girl Scouts |
| | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal |

