



Volume 7, Issue 3
March 2017

The Beacon

God is still speaking, **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Spiritually Speaking

**Rev. Dr. Ann Michele
Rogers-Brigham**

Dear Safe Harbor
Family Church Friends,

Greetings in
Christ! I am glad to be
writing to you at the
beginning of the Lenten
season of our church
year as your new Senior
Pastor. Lent is always a
time for "new begin-
nings" and it is a time
of "new beginnings" for
us as pastor and people.

A song that has
been a favorite of mine
was written by Brian
Wren in 1978. Here are
the lyrics of the song
"This Is A Day Of New

Beginnings." The
words of this song
talk about the past
and the future, words
we may relate to as
we move through this
transition time.

*This is a day of new
beginnings,
time to remember
and move on,
time to believe what
love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain
that's gone.*

*For by the life and
death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit,
now as then,
can make for us a
world of difference,
as faith and hope are
born again.*

*Then let us, with the
Spirit's daring,
step from the past
and leave behind
our disappointment,
guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths,
and sure to find.*

*Christ is alive, and
goes before us
to show and share
what love can do.
This is a day of new
beginnings;
our God is making all
things new.*

The words
also relate to the
meaning of the Len-
ten journey. Lent is
a time when we re-
flect on our lives and
remember the joy,
the pain, or special
moments that have
been ours to share
as individuals and as
a church family.
Lent is a time when
the power of the
Spirit teaches us,
through the life and
death of Jesus, to
hope again and to
renew our faith.
Lent is a time to let
our grief, pain or
sadness be spoken
about so we can find
new paths. Lent is
the time when we
allow God to teach

us something new about the life Christ desires for us.

I treasure our first days and weeks together as we get to know one another and practice being the "best" we can in these days of new beginnings. I know you will miss your dear Pastor Amber and we pray for God's safe keeping of her. May God bless her new beginnings and ours as we open ourselves to God's leading and live through at time of change.

In the days ahead, I look forward to conversations together and knowing how I may be of support to you at Safe Harbor Family Church, UCC. I give thanks for your welcome and the support of the SHFC staff and board members. I thank God for "new beginnings!"

Lenten blessings,
Rev. Ann Michele

Need to contact Pastor Ann Michele?

Please email me at amrogerbrigham@gmail.com or call me on my cell at 662-998-2616. I will be at the church on Sundays and Wednesdays; you can let me know if you need some time to talk and we'll set up an appointment to meet when I'm at the church. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call and either I or one of our Associate Pastors will be in touch with you.

CROSSOVER

SHFC Wednesday Evening Worship/Study in Lent with Rev. Ann Michele

We will read parts of Romans and learn more about Paul's radical ministry of love, justice and equality. For your Lenten Study, begin reading the book of Romans and come to ponder Paul's teaching for

the early church. I'll choose specific passages for our focus. Bring your Bible and let's study and pray together.

Want another text to read for interpretation and help? I suggest *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* by Marcus

J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan, HarperOne, 2009, 230 pp.

If you've never attended a "Crossover" service you are missing out! The evening begins with dinner and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is followed by Worship/Study at 7:00 p.m.

Birthday Bash

SHFC Birthday Bash is March 4th! We will celebrate all birthdays for the month during our Birthday Bash!

Please bring your favorite dish or two to share.



Sweets are already provided by Sugar Magnolia Takery!

Birthday Bash is immediately following church service.

Kidz Harbor

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Volunteer Meeting TBA

Sundays 5:15 - 5:45-
Sunday School in Kidz
Harbor (drop off begins at
5:10)

Sundays @ 6 for kidz 6 &
younger-Kidz Harbor

Wednesdays after dinner
- Kidz Harbor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Volunteer Meeting TBA.
Listen during announce-
ments for date and time!

Thank you to all Kidz
Harbor volunteers who
make all of this possible!

ACTIVITY:

We are celebrating lent
and Eason right now as we
prepare for Easter! Find
words reminding us of this
beautiful season!

Kidz are starting a lent series. We will be doing things to remind them to walk with Jesus in this journey and give of themselves. It's going to be lots of fun with some challenges each week. Hope to see them in Sunday School!

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



YACHT Club

As the seasons are changing, so are things in YACHT Club. And while change can be scary and sometimes sad, it is the one thing in life constant. The best thing we can do when everything around us changes is to keep moving...keep pushing...and keep going. Before you know it, the

fear goes away, and you realize that everything is all ok.

I am thankful for each of you and hopeful for the future. We have lots of exciting things in the works. You each bring so much to this group and to Safe Harbor.

Look forward to seeing each of you on Wednesday nights after supper as we continue to grow and share our journeys!

You guys are **AMAZING** and loved more than you know!

Love and blessings,
Julia

Looking for Peace when there is no Peace

Throughout scripture, we see God referred to by various names; however, one of the most profound and interesting names that I have found is the use of I AM. The very fact that God resides within us means much more than we can ever imagine, yet we still live our lives as though we are useless; powerless; defeated. We call ourselves losers or we live on the opposite side and live pridefully, and haughtily, looking down on those who are not doing well emotionally, physically, financially, spiritually.

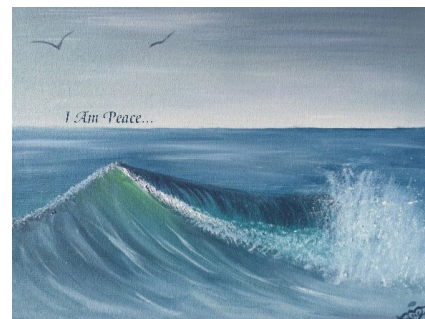
In the midst of all of this chaos, this turmoil, how do we find comfort? Where do we find peace? I sit here writing this article and I am even now going through tumultuous situations,

feeling inadequate. It is at these times that I need to remember that I AM is within me. If we can stop for just a few moments; close our eyes; take a few deep breaths; and simply say with confidence, "I AM PEACE" several times, soon we become peace. We **ACTUALLY BECOME** Peace. And when we become peace, we soon exude peace to others.

You may ask, "Why not just say 'I am peaceful'?" The word peaceful signifies emotion. Peace is a **THING**. Though intangible, it is something that can be embodied. Emotions can deceive us. I challenge you: Every morning for one week, wake up with me and let's begin our day with holding our hands

in receiving position; take several deep breaths, and say with assurance, **BELIEVING** every time we speak these words: "I am Peace." And then as needed, take time during the day during stressful times to stop and use this practice often.

WE ARE PEACE.



Gluten-free Communion Wafers!

Several persons have told us that they are allergic to gluten. While our regular communion wafers have gluten in them, we have been offering gluten-free

wafers to those who request them. If you have an allergy to gluten, please let us know. You are invited to receive communion from the station closest to the piano.



Food Pantry

Safe Harbor Food Pantry Ministry is always in need of can goods to help persons that struggle to make ends meet.

If you can help, please bring your cans of food to the church anytime that the church is open.

Any of your pastoral staff can help you find space to shelve the food.



Have a Need? Call or Text the Church Phone



601-906-8934.

There is a pastoral staff member who responds to calls placed to the church phone, 601-906-8934.

If you need a pastor, please call the church phone and leave a message. Leaving a message will help to direct your call or question to the appropriate pastoral person. As we start to develop our new pastoral team, please know that the best way to contact us is to call the church phone.

Please be sure to leave a message so we can respond more appropriately to your call.

Calls will be responded to as quickly as possible but because staff members also work outside of church, we pledge to reply to calls within 24-hours (or sooner).

Thank you from your pastoral staff team. Love and peace: Alan, Pastor Ann Michele, Cindy, Glenn, and Julia

Romans Bible Study

Starting March 8, Rev. Ann Michele will be leading a bible study on the book of Romans. We are looking forward to enriching our Lenten season with this study.

Glimpses of God from Glenn...

As we greet Lent 2017 this month, I have noticed a common phrase in my places across Jackson and across the internet - *"What will you give up for Lent?"*

In previous years and as a former Catholic, I had been taught that it was important to give up 'something' for Lent. Usually I would try to give up physical things like drinking diet cokes every day, eating chocolate for dessert, watching hours of mind-numbing TV, spending a lot of time on the computer/phone, or anything else that was 'not good' for me. Lent meant sacrifice to me. Sometimes, the sacrifice would become a habit that lasted beyond Lent. Other times, I would find myself on Easter Sunday celebrating the end of Lent by consuming whatever I had deprived myself - and consuming 'a lot' of it!

In the most recent years, I began to change my focus from giving up something to adding something. By default, when I added a Lenten meditation, I had to find time out of my schedule to do so by giving up something



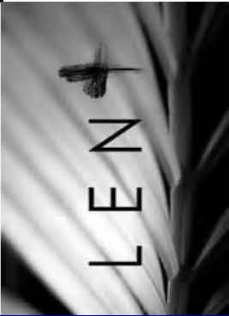






that was stopping my spiritual growth in that area. I was still giving up something less-Godly for doing something more-Godly. In other words, I would decrease eating bad food for an increase in doing good - more praying, meditating, exercising, listening to Christian music, etc. It made sense to add something good and decreasing something not-so-good. While I felt good about my 'adding-to', I still felt that something was not quite right.

This year, I believe I have found what I was missing - a narrower Lenten focus. This year I want to focus on my thinking and acting. Specifically, I think God is calling me to focus on forgiveness - Radical Forgiveness. I have long believed that God loves me and forgives me - completely! God has offered me mercy and compassion. As God has given to me, I need to offer the same to others. Sounds easy - right? C.S. Lewis wrote, *"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive."* Ouch!

Well, here is my hope and plan. First, I want to be free of the bondage of hurt - of bitterness - of regret. Second, during Lent I will be working to give up my hurt, bitterness, and regret. Third, I plan to explore different but similar places in my life to see where I have been less-Godly in my life as a parent, a son, and in my relationships with others. Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote, *"Bitterness imprisons life; love releases it."*

I hope you will consider looking a bit deeper - below the skin - of your own lives to see what you could give up during Lent this year. Corrie Ten Boom wrote, *"[Anyone] who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which [he- or her-self] must pass."* I pray that your journey will be filled with greatness, love, joy, and peace.

God bless each of you,
Glenn

<div>  <div> Safe Harbor Family Church An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ 1345 Flowood Dr. Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702 </div>  <div> 601-923-2728 www.safeharborfamilychurch.org </div> </div>						
MARCH 2017						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 Ash Wednesday  6:30 - Dinner 7p - Imposition of Ashes Service	2	3	4
5 1st Sundat in Lent 	6	7	8	9	10	11
6 PM - Praise Service <i>Birthday Bash after service</i> <i>Bring a dish to share</i>			5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT			
12 2nd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins Set your clocks <u>ahead</u> 1 hour 	13	14 6:30p - PFLAG  Fondren Presbyterian Church 6:30p- Shepherd's Task Force (at the church)	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18
6 PM - Praise Service			5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT			
19 3rd Sunday in Lent	20 Spring  begins	21	22	23	24	25
6 PM - Praise Service		6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT			
26 4th Sunday in Lent	27	28	29	30	31	Christ beside me Christ before me Christ behind me Christ within me Christ beneath me Christ above me ~ St. Patrick
6 PM - Praise Service			5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT			