

Allen Memorial Baptist Church
8 Church Street
Candor, New York 13743

March 2021
Volume 2, Issue 3

AMBC NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Welcome to March. A time to perhaps turn a corner. An opportunity for a fresh start.

In the early Roman calendar, March was actually the first month in their year since it brought the first day of spring and was therefore recognized as the month of new beginnings. Now, in this third month of our year, we also look for the “new” as we anticipate turning our clocks forward on March 14 so we can enjoy a little more daylight in our evenings (and not wake and go to sleep in the dark). We also get excited about the coming of spring on March 20. This is a month of **promise and preparation**.

Promise in that the cold, dark and quiet of winter will turn to increased warmth, abundant light and the sprouts of new growth. Promise that the white snow will melt and the green grass will grow. The barren trees that had long ago shed their colors will once again burst to life and provide a glorious covering of shade.

It's also preparation. Tasks that were set aside for the winter months are now picked back up again. Items that need repair from the harsh weather are added to the “to-do” list. Vacations are scheduled. Family gatherings are organized.

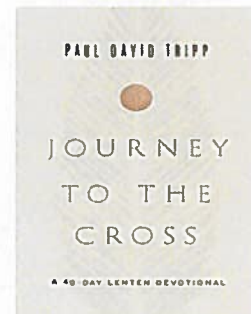
As is true in our human experience,, so in our life with Jesus Christ, there is promise and preparation. This month brings the reminder of a **promise**. Jesus told his disciples on the way to Jerusalem that *“the Son of Man will be...condemned...mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day”* (Matthew 20:17-19 ESV). Jesus reminded them that things would be difficult (for Him and for them) but that He would be raised from the dead. The promises of life after death, sin defeated, forgiveness offered, and freedom paid for are all brought to the forefront of our minds during this month. This is good news! Jesus made these promises and He has proven Himself trustworthy. He did what He said He would do! Jesus showed us that He would do everything that was needed to rescue us from our sin and restore us to a right relationship with God.

In light of all this, it is also a time of **preparation**. As we move toward Easter—Resurrection Sunday—let's not come to that day without having taken some time to reflect on this wonderful news. It is a time of solemn remembrance—there was great pain and sorrow—but the end result is glorious celebration! Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15 of the need to reflect on the truth that has been *“delivered to you as of first importance...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:17 ESV).

The promise and the preparation are necessary. Think on these things in the coming month so when we join together on Resurrection Sunday we can celebrate fully as those who have been given the gift of new life in Jesus Christ!

Pastor Scott

Book suggestion for March 40-day devotional leading up to Easter



WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

In person—drop your check, cash or pew envelope in one of the boxes located in the Fellowship Hall or front of the church.

Online—www.ambccandor.com/give



COME JOIN US!

Each Sunday we have an opportunity to stay connected in worship by attending our Sunday service to enjoy a shared message and study through scripture.

Join us as we continue our series of sermons entitled, "Jesus HIStory" with senior pastor, Scott Burtis.

I encourage you, if you have not already, to join us in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. And our in-person Sunday School beginning on March 7. We are also live streaming on YouTube. Check our website at www.ambccandor.com for more details.

Please be sure to contact us if you need anything!

¹⁷When Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and told them as they were walking along, ¹⁸"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the high priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death. ¹⁹Then they will hand him over to unbelievers to be mocked, whipped, and crucified, but on the third day he will be raised." Matthew 20:17-19 ESV

Saint Patrick's Day—March 17

Who Was Saint Patrick?

Was there really a St. Patrick? Definitely. Did he really drive the snakes out of Ireland? Probably not, since snakes weren't native to Ireland.

St. Patrick was born in Britain as Maewyn Succat. At age 16 (around AD 400), he was kidnapped from his home on the west coast and carried off to Ireland to become a slave who worked as a shepherd. After six years, he escaped; upon returning home, he received his call (in a dream) to preach the Gospel. He spent the next fifteen or so years in a monastery, preparing for his missionary work. When he became a priest, his name was changed to Patricius and, eventually, Patrick. Although some Christians lived in Ireland at the time, it was Patrick who spread Christianity throughout the land and brought an organized church into existence there.

Fun fact:

Blue was the color originally associated with St. Patrick, but green is now favored.

—from the *Old Farmer's Almanac*

| February 2021 | | | | | | |
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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | | | | |



March 2021



| April 2021 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 A-Dick & BJ Halstead | 4 B-Tammy Babcock | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 6:00pm Deaconesses' Meeting 6:30pm Trustees' Meeting B-Alex Aman | 9 | 10 | 11 6:00pm Deacons' Meeting | 12 B-Helena Ragsdale B-Jonathan Leubner | 13 |
| 14 Daylight Saving time begins | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 B-Jim White | 23 B-Ben Benjamin | 24 B-Jacek Teribury | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Palm Sunday | 29 B-Mary O'Connor | 30 | 31 B-Austin Aman | | | |
| Regular Sunday Service: | 9:45 am Worship Service 9:45 am Journey Kids 11:15 am Sunday School | | | | | |

Announcements for this newsletter should be received by Tammy Podufalski by the 23rd of the month prior to publication. You can send your announcement to Tammy by email at ambcsecretary@hotmail.com, phone at 607-280-4039 or by placing your announcement in the Secretary box in the hallway near the offices.



Mark your Calendar

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 28 | Palm Sunday |
| April 2 | 6:00 pm Good Friday Service/Communion |
| April 3 | Eggstravaganza for Kids |
| April 4 | 7:30 am Sunrise Service 8:15 am Breakfast in Gym 9:30 am Worship Service |

Don't forget to "spring ahead" before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13, by moving your clock ahead by one hour to mark the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.



Candor Community Blood Drive:

Wednesday, March 10, 2021—Candor EMS Building

1:00—6:00 p.m.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS to make an appointment

Daily Bible Reading Plans:

For online reading and videos:

www.branchtogether.org
www.backtothebible.org
www.blueletterbible.org
www.biblegateway.com



Clark Connection—Papua New Guinea

Christopher writes for the family to thank AMBC for their continued support over the years.

He reports that he put up his wings in September 2019 for an indefinite period and took a position as maintenance manager, to rebuild a worn out team and convert his USA maintenance license into the PNG system.

He says that despite COVID and the need for some of their financial partners to drop support and gaining of new partners, they are doing okay financially and spiritually.

Nathan and Christopher will be traveling to the USA in September 2021 to get Nathan settled into the next chapter of his life following his high school graduation. They will send more details at a later date.

He sends love from the Clark family to all of the AMBC family.



Please add to your prayer list:

Mark Hollenbeck—severe COVID while on vacation in Florida

Those dealing with or recovering from COVID
The healing of our nation

Well, Valentine's Day has passed as well as Presidents' Day weekend. Next up - Easter. Wait - did we skip something important?

It seems like anticipating Easter is the final push of emerging from winter. If you have children (and grandchildren), you are probably preoccupied with choosing baskets that will hold our favorite Easter candy - jelly beans, peanut butter eggs, Cadbury eggs, peeps, chocolate bunnies (can we agree that Easter candy is THE best candy anyway?) - and if we are truly diehard, a new Easter outfit for church. Maybe we plan our Sunday brunch menu, an egg hunt for the littles, and an afternoon with family. The big day finally comes, we go to church and tend to our all American traditions, then it's over. Just like that. One day.

Some years ago as my love for sacred holidays intensified, I realized that the most important holiday on the Christian calendar came and went with barely any fanfare. One day. That's it !(Maybe two if you count a Good Friday Service).

God's one and only Son, having lived thirty something years after His first Advent to Earth, suffered for all the sin of mankind - past, present, and future - was rejected by everyone, friend and foe alike, beaten inhumanely, then died on a cross. Three anguishing days later, the tomb was empty! Not only did He predict His own death and resurrection from the dead - He pulled it off! He purchased salvation once and for all. Even me.

And I've been preparing for my celebration with an Easter basket full of candy and a new dress?

You see what I mean. Something amiss. It wasn't enough for me. I needed more.

I did some research into how to make every Easter going forward more meaningful, more about commemorating the magnitude of this bedrock of my faith and found Lent. The forty day period before Easter.

I grew up in a Catholic home, but we didn't pay much attention to Lent except for eating fish on Friday, and - if feeling especially spiritual - giving up chocolate for a few days until it was too hard and we took it back.

Paul David Tripp describes it this way: "***Lent is about remembering the suffering and sacrifice of the Savior. Lent is about confessing our ongoing battle with sin. Lent is about fasting, and not just from food; we willingly let go of the things in this world that have too much a hold on us.*** (Did anything come to your mind as did to mine?)

And Lent is about giving ourselves in a more focused way to prayer.

The horrible, public sacrifice of Jesus should ignite not only our celebration, but our mourning - both our sin and the sin that remains."*

By contrast, Christmas is about feasting and indulging in our joy that the long awaited Savior has finally come. Most every way we celebrate is abundant! (Hold that thought until November.)

Easter needs to be about decreasing, lamenting, examining our lives, confessing, remembering the depth of Jesus' suffering for our sin and grieving; creating a space for God to fill with more of His presence. A 40 day focus seems appropriate considering Jesus' 40 days of temptation, doesn't it? Could we give Him 40 days to do a new work in our lives?

Imagine what our Easter Sunday morning will look and feel like if we have denied ourselves some earthly pleasure and increased our prayer life for 6 weeks leading up. I can tell you my experience has been amazing and necessary - worth it! I wouldn't skip it for the world because I've loved the result. I'm so ready to worship come Sunday morning I can barely sit still when the first notes of Up From the Grave He Arose start!

I sent this prayer to our children on Day One and will pray it for you as well.

*"May you open your heart and hands and let go of things that you not only hold, but have taken hold of you. May this free you to seek your Savior more fully, to celebrate Him more deeply, and follow Him more faithfully."**

Amen.

I do realize that at time of this printing, Lent is already well underway, but even a 25 or 30 day fast is a good place to start.

*Quotes from Journey to the Cross by Paul David Tripp

Angela Burtis

