Dear Friends,

Our Lenten journey continues....

For the past 3 weeks, we have been walking through the last 24 hours of Jesus’ earthly life. Reflective, meaningful and transformative, the season of Lent gives each person the space to contemplate what God did and continues to do for us through Jesus Christ.

Before long we will reach the end of the Lenten experience and celebrate the Risen Lord! Easter Sunday is perhaps the holiest day of the year for Christians and is the oldest festival of the Christian Church. In the early Church, new converts sat in vigil during the night before Easter. Then they were baptized and received their first Holy Communion on Easter Day.

According to St. Bede (673-735), the name "Easter" was derived from the Saxon spring goddess, "Eostre." The Christian observance of Easter took the place of an existing pagan ritual.

The date for Easter is set in relation to the Jewish Passover. Since Jesus' Last Supper and crucifixion occurred during the feast of the Passover, Christ is seen as the Paschal lamb, the new sacrifice. So the Christian observance of Jesus' death and resurrection are forever tied to the Jewish Passover feast.

In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea set the date for the celebration of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, March 21. For this reason, the date will change each year and can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.

We pray that you will plan to participate in all Holy Week worship opportunities which will culminate with our celebration of Easter Sunday. This day, of all days, expresses the heart and soul of our faith. “The cross is empty – the grave too. Jesus is alive forever more! He has risen indeed!”

With love for each of you,

Pattye

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

April 17th - Palm/Passion Sunday – 10:00am
April 21st - Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00pm
April 22nd - Good Friday Service – 7:00pm
April 24th - Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30am & Easter Worship Service – 10:00am

Primetimers!

This month the Primetimers will meet on Wednesday, April 6 at Jerry & Marsha Felder’s house for a Chinese luncheon (cost to be shared by all), beginning 1130AM. Contact Marsha Felder for details.
Ad Board Meeting

The Ad Board meeting for April will be held Thursday evening, April 14 at 7PM in the Gathering Room of the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join in discussing the governance of the church.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Lana Melton
3 Dora Fischer
11 Mike Carrasco
Matt Carrasco
12 Jeremy Murray
13 Glynn Ward
Jonathan Kolb (96)
14 Luka Cutura III
Sherrill Flynn
Shirley Johnson
23 Debra Ryan
26 Brooke Cutura
Brian Tracey
30 Joey Wrenn

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

12 Pat & Wendy Fulks
Geremy & Jessica Jackson
20 Bill & Fay Gallaher
21 Benjie & Shirley Johnson

SPRING CLEANUP April 9!

Spring is here so put on your old clothes and come ready to help spiffy up our church on April 9th from 8:00 till 12:00 noon. We have a few big projects to accomplish as well as many small things that need attending to. We need the handymen/handywomen, window washers, and any others who are ready to help with our Spring clean-up. With Easter right around the corner, we will use this day to make our church beautiful. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated. The new chair of our Trustees, Jennifer Miller, can be contacted for any questions. God Bless!

Rummage Sale Coming Up!
Saturday, April 2!!

We invite you to join us in raising money for missions! On Saturday April 2nd, PRUMC will hold a rummage sale at the church. We are looking for the treasures you don’t want anymore, so please bring your donations pre-marked with prices which will be attractive to shoppers. We will also have a container to collect your old scrap metal. Broken lawn mowers (all oil and gas removed!); worn-out BBQ grills and rusty bicycles are just some of what might be laying around your garage. The load will be brought to be weighed and
recycled into mission dollars. And don’t forget to come out to help sell and to socialize with the community. Not only will we be raising funds, we will have the blessed opportunity of inviting new folks to church. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kirby & Leslie Craddock.

**What will you DO for Lent?**

We fast and we abstain from things during Lent, practicing self-denial, but this season is as much about what we will DO for the Lord, as what we don’t do. Our Mission group will be providing suggestions, so watch our bulletin or contact Cecelia Richards for more information.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

*“A Trip to Nazareth”*

**June 13-17**

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held June 13-17th in the evening. We will take the children on a trip to Nazareth! Growing in faith where Jesus himself grew up. Childcare for preschool ages and younger will be available for all workers. Participants are aged kindergarten (completed) through 5th grade. Those aged 6th grade and up have a special place as our assistant tribe leaders and station workers. Please see Jessica Jackson jrosejackson@gmail.com 985-788-6465 or sign up in the gathering room. We need not only the moms and dads, and the uncles and aunts, but the grandmas and grandpas, too. Even if you don’t regard yourself as “good with children”, there is a job for you! There is a place for all gifts and talents!

**EASTER FLOWERS**

Easter flowers in honor or memory of relatives or friends will be placed around the chancel again this year, again for a contribution of $8.00 per plant. Envelopes will be distributed the next few Sundays with the bulletin. See Jerry Felder for more information.

**Pearl River UMC = “The Friendliest Church in Town”**

It is always a blessing to reunite with our friends and families on Sunday mornings. However it is important to be aware of and welcoming to those visitors who come into our church home – especially for the first time. When you see an unfamiliar face, don’t be shy! Extend a hand, give a smile, and let them know you are glad they are with us!

**Newsletter On the Website**

Just a reminder that each month our newsletter is uploaded to the Pearl River UMC website: www.prumc.net. If you misplace your copy or want to send the link to a friend or family member, it’s as easy as a click of the mouse! If you are not currently receiving the monthly publication, but desire to do so, please call or email the church office to be added to our physical mailing/email list.

**Submitting Newsletter Articles**

Anyone can submit an article for the monthly newsletter. However it must be ‘insert ready’. In other words, please refrain from contacting the editor asking him or her to write an article for you. It is preferable to email your article(s) to the editor; however written articles will be accepted. The editor and pastor reserve the right to revise or remove any article for grammatical reasons and/or if content is determined unsuitable for the mission and ministry of the church. All articles must be submitted by the 3rd Friday of any given month in order to be included in the next month’s publication. **Due date for submitting articles for the April edition is Good Friday April 22nd.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**
JAN-FEB 2011

Year to Date General Fund Income    $33,856.89
Year to Date Expenses from General Fund    $32,715.78
Year to Date Income minus Expense    +$ 1,141.11
Amount collected for Missions Year to Date    $468.22

Amount spent on Missions Year to Date    $248.61

Other financial items of interest:
Mortgage balance (3/21/11):    $180.513.38
Balance on Dedicated Accounts -    $11,740.00

An interesting note: $1,634.00 has been given to the renovation of the nursery! We love our little ones!