

March 2020

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Pastor Debbie

Grace and Peace of Christ be with you,

I would like to thank Janet Myers, Sue McClure, Jeannie Norris, Tony Holcomb, and Vicki Ratzlaff for giving of their time and talents to prepare for our February 5th audit which went smoothly. I would like to extend my thanks to Mike Sphar for coming from Pueblo to conduct our audit so that we could prepare for entering our statistics into Ezra which is the online tracking of all the churches in the Mountain Sky Conference and beyond. I would also like to thank Hannah Metzger for being willing and available to lead a youth fellowship during our 8:30 am Sunday worship time. Unfortunately after several months, there have been no children who have attended. We thank Hannah for her willingness to help establish this ministry. I would also like to thank those of you who volunteered to be Study Buddies across the street at the Center Elementary after Principal Morgan appealed to our help. Blessing on you all for your willingness **to be God's vessel to our youth in our community.**

Now as we begin Lent, let our focus be on a time of renewal, reconciliation, and resilience. The sermon series will be drawn from *The Grace of Les Miserables*. Saguache will begin the bible study that coincides with the sermon series beginning the first Sunday of Lent. Center has been invited to participate in the Friday Lenten luncheons in Monte Vista whose locations have been listed.

I would like to share an article my friend Joe Lovino wrote to um.org February 15, 2015 called **"Beyond Fasting: 10 Tips for a More Meaningful Lent" which is another way to look at Lent.**

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for mistakes they have made. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

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1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered **to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB).** Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

2. Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

3. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.



Fruit Orders

Vicki Ratzlaff is yet again collecting fruit orders this year. There is a great selection of fruits available, but sadly the Boysenberries, Boysenberry and Loganberry Puree, and Loganberry Jam are sold out until the Fall. If you would like to order some fruit, please fill out the attached form, checks payable to Bithell Farms, and send it back to Vicki Ratzlaff (purple.vic30@gmail.com). She needs all the orders by March 9th. We are hoping to sell at least 25 cases so that we can have them delivered to the church.

Bless the Lord, O my
soul, and forget not all
his benefits, who forgives
all your iniquity, who
heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life
from the pit, who crowns
you with steadfast love
and mercy, who satisfies
you with good so that
your youth is renewed
like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:2-5 (ESV)

4. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Sign up and get trained. Then volunteer to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed **his disciples'** feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

5. Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to a local nursing home about washing wheelchairs, or a children's hospital about visiting with parents of patients. Volunteer with a prison ministry, senior center, or any other place where people need some human contact. Play games, tell stories, look at photo albums, and enjoy those **about whom Jesus said, "when you have done it for [them], you have done it for me"**.

6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

These 13 sermons (available online) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "**Standard Sermons**" he gave to his **Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion"** ("The Sermons of John Wesley – An Introduction"). **Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)** and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

7. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we *show our love and don't need to say it*. Or maybe **we are concerned it won't be reciprocated**. **Fight the fear and say "I love you"** to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

8. Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party by cooking for the neighborhood, or buying lunch for the entire office or your church. Feed everyone you can and give people an opportunity to be together.

9. Serve in worship

Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a reader, work with the tech team, help a young family with their baby, or find some other way to serve your church. **Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts**. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

10. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. Be original. Find yours.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you,
Pastor Debbie

The Month of March

According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was ten months long, beginning in March and ending in December. It may sound crazy, but you can still see traces of this old system in our modern calendar: because December was the tenth month, it was named for the number ten in Latin (decem), just like September was named for seven (septem). So, what about January and February? They were just two nameless months called "winter," proving that winter is literally so awful it doesn't even deserve a spot on the calendar.

Rd.com/culture

Annual Hygiene Kits

It is time for our annual collection of items for the hygiene kits the UMW ladies donate to La Puente. We are hoping for 60 of each item, so please donate!

Items needed for Hygiene Kits:

- ◆ Medium sized items are appreciated
- ◆ Travel size items will be donated to La Puente
- ◆ Bar Soap (3.75 oz)
- ◆ Wash Cloth
- ◆ Shampoo (12.5 oz.)
- ◆ Deodorant (2.6 oz.)
- ◆ Tooth paste (5.1 oz.)
- ◆ Tooth brush
- ◆ Band Aids
- ◆ Combs
- ◆ Nail clippers

Boxes for items will be upstairs in back of the church and downstairs on a table along the east wall.

Collection will be now through June 7th. We would love to have your help to assemble the kits, though the day of assembly has yet to be determined. Please join us!

Who was St. Patrick?

This month we will be celebrating St. Patrick's day on the 17th. In today's age, this holiday marks a day for many people to get massively drunk and wear a lot of green. But let us not forget the man who this day is dedicated to originally: St. Patrick of Ireland.

Yes, St. Patrick really existed, but despite popular belief, he did not originally hail from Ireland. He is actually from either Scotland or Wales. Historians are torn about which country to claim him a native of, but they do agree that he did not originate from Ireland. In fact, he was taken to Ireland as a slave at the age of sixteen by a gang of Irish pirates. Patrick was not a believer in God while growing up and he contributed his lack of faith to his capture and believed his six years of slavery was his punishment. During those six years he was herding sheep and pigs in the county of Antrim on Slemish Mountain. Much of that time was spent praying. Eventually he was able to smuggle himself back to Britain on a boat and because of his time in Ireland, he was inspired to become a priest. It is said he had a dream that motivated him to become a missionary and return to Ireland and bring the people the message of Christ as many had never heard it.



During his years as a missionary in Ireland he baptized thousands of people. This was not easy, as many times he was imprisoned by the local pagans, but was in turn able to secure his release through gifts to the chief. St. Patrick wrote about his life and work in Ireland and called it the *Confessio*. In it he wrote: "I am the sinner Patrick. I am the most unsophisticated of people, the least of Christians, and for many people I am the most contemptible... I was taken into captivity in Ireland - at that time I was ignorant of the true God - along with many thousand others. This was our punishment for departing from God, abandoning his commandments, and ignoring our priests who kept on warning us about our salvation". Patrick believed it was his mission to have every nation hear the words of the gospel so that Christ would then return. He was also known to use the Shamrock plant as a way of explaining the concept of the Trinity to the pagans he was attempting to convert.

There are many myths about St. Patrick, but none as big as the belief that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. There are so many snakes around the world, it is hard for people to believe that there is a place that has none naturally. With snakes being the symbol of evil, and the Christian belief in the Pagan religion being devoted to worshiping the Devil, it is then very easy to understand how this myth could have begun since it was St. Patrick's mission to rid Ireland of its pagan influence. Despite being the driving force behind Ireland becoming a Christian nation, he was not the one to bring Christianity to the island, as many would like to believe. Ireland had a healthy trading relationship with the Roman Empire, and therefore it would have been practically impossible to remain untouched by Christian influence.



So this month as you don your emerald green outfits and drink Guinness to your hearts content, don't forget to reflect on who the holiday is commemorating. It is thanks to him that we have the Ireland we know of today. And even though he wasn't mystically responsible for the lack of snakes on the island, his work is still very much appreciated by the Irishmen alive today.

AA Meeting

The AA Group Meets Saturdays at 10am and we welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of this group. We are so grateful for this opportunity God has given us to host these AA Meetings.

Breakfast with the Police

Breakfast with the Police is back this month so join us on Saturday March 7th at 8 am for a nice breakfast and a chance to meet with the Chief of Police here in Center.



Movie Night

This month's movie is Academy Award nominee *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. Take a trip down memory lane with Mr. Rogers and learn about his real-life friendship with Journalist Lloyd Vogel. Join us!

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

We will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt again this year and the UMW ladies are looking for small donations of dollar tree toys as prizes to be given out to the kids. The UMW ladies will be providing the larger prizes. Please help us provide the kids with a great Easter.

Worshipping Lent

Those who will be participating in this coming Lenten season are encouraged to attend the Lenten Friday Lunches that are being hosted at different churches in the Monte Vista area. This long-established lunch is a wonderful

opportunity to meet new people and worship with other locals. Each church typically takes a love offering for a mission effort of their choice, and so by attending you are helping the many different missions in the Valley. In Saguache, there will be a Lenten study written by Matt Rawle called *The Grace of Les Miserables*.



Lenten Friday Luncheons

Various churches in Monte Vista are participating in the Lenten Friday Luncheons. Every week we are at a different church, meeting new people. The luncheons start at noon and everyone is welcome. A love offering will be requested to support that church's mission effort.

Schedule:

Saint Stephen's Church	February 28 th
First Presbyterian Church	March 6 th
Christian Church	March 13 th
Monte Vista Methodist Church	March 20 th
Saint Joseph's Church	March 27 th
Assemblies of God Church	April 3 rd

Good Friday Service will be hosted at Saint Stephen's Church this year on April 10th at 7pm.



Martha Circle Meetings

Martha Circle will meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month throughout the year. Meetings start at 9:30 am.

If you know of anyone that could use a greeting card please call Linda Mix (719) 850-1188. Linda has a great selection of cards on hand. We welcome new members and invite all to attend meetings at any time. For more information of these events call Martha Circle President, Marilyn Eagles (719) 754-3704.

Trinity District Conference

Trinity District will be having their gathering on the 28th starting at 9 am in Alamosa at the First UMC Church. Registration has yet to be set up and I will let everyone know when that has occurred. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Kathy Jones at trinity@mtnskyumc.org.

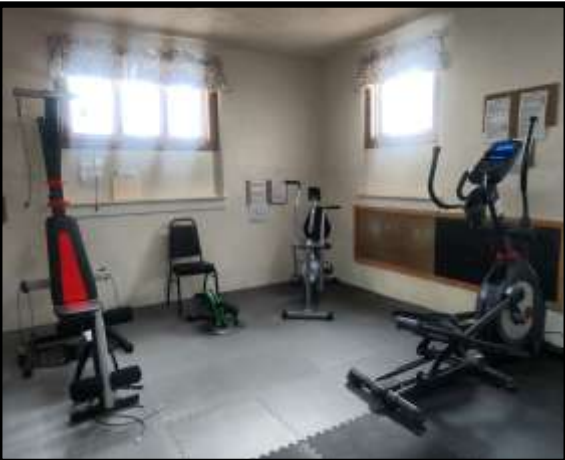


Financial Report

The Financial Health of Center United Methodist Church looks slightly better at the end of January with our balance at \$-1,111.24 instead of the \$-1,964.71 balance we had at the end of the 2019 year. I understand that our offering is generally down this time of year with large expenses coming in, property taxes and income taxes, etc. So Please let God be your guide with your tithes during this time. Tithing only what you can afford, but as much as you can afford, to help our church make it through

another year. As it says in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The main principle behind tithing is that what we do with our money shows where our heart is.

Your Friend in Christ,
Vicki J Ratzlaff
Finance Committee Co-Chair



Senior Fitness Center

The new fitness center has been quite successful! We have had a couple of people from the community as well as some of our members come use the facility. The gym is open to everyone, and new users need to check in with the office prior to using the gym. We have a television dedicated to yoga and other DVD workouts and a Strider that can be used by anyone regardless of how fit you are. It helps work your legs and knees without the strain that other equipment would cause. We also have a bike and elliptical for those who would like to do a little cardio. Please come check out our gym!

Cooking With Your Neighbor

This month we will be celebrating St. Patrick's day at both Cookin' with Your



Neighbor in Center and Supper with Your Neighbor in Saguache. There will be meat provided at both events, and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite Irish dish to the dinner. Please invite your family and friends and welcome our many community neighbors at this month's dinner.



*May the road rise
up to meet you. May
the wind be always
at your back. May the
sun shine warm upon
your face, and the rains
fall soft on your fields
and, until we meet
again, May God hold
you in the palm
of His hand.*

An old Irish Blessing



google.com/images

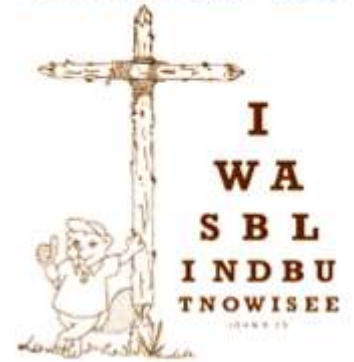
Things to Remember for March!

- ◆ The UMW Ladies will not be having a meeting this month. There will be an updated UMW Calendar in next month's newsletter.
- ◆ Daylight Savings will be starting this month on the 8th so don't forget to move your clock ahead.
- ◆ Town & Country will be meeting on the 9th at 11 am.
- ◆ Fruit orders are here and are due March 9th to Vicki Ratzlaff. Checks payable to Bithell Farms.
- ◆ The Worship and Admin Meetings will be on the 10th at 8:30 am and 6:30 pm respectively.
- ◆ 50+ will be on March 14th this month at noon.
- ◆ We will be having our monthly Sunday Brunch on the 15th after service. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share with us.
- ◆ Martha Circle will be on the 18th at 9:30 am.
- ◆ Trinity District will be having their gathering on the 28th starting at 9 am in Alamosa at the First UMC Church. Registration has yet to be set up and I will let everyone know when that has occurred. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Registration is now
open for Beaver Creek
Christian Camps at
www.bccyc.com

Register by April 15,
2020 and pay at least a
\$50 deposit to receive
a \$30 discount.

**BEAVER CREEK
CHRISTIAN CAMP 2020**



20/20 Vision!

Beaver Creek's Christian Camps 2020 Schedule and Fees

Staff development - June 26-29, 2020

Family/Grand Camp - July 1-3, 2020 - \$200 for one camper and one adult in the same family plus \$50 for each additional family member

1st & 2nd Grade Camp - July 1-3 - \$150 per camper

3rd & 4th Grade Camp - July 5-10, 2020 - \$365 per camper

5th & 6th Grade Camp - July 12-17, 2020 - \$365 per camper

Middle School Camp - July 19-24, 2020 - \$365 per camper

High School Camp - July 26-31, 2020 - \$365 per camper

Scholarships are available for all camps.

Beaver Creek Christian Camp
0885 County Road 20A
P.O. Box 186
South Fork, CO 81154
manager@beavercreekcamp.org
(719) 873-5311



Beaver Creek Youth Camp is an equal opportunity service provider and employer and operates under special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.

Easter Sunday

On April 11th we will have The Easter Egg Hunt. It

Center

Sunrise Service 7 am

Brunch after Sunrise Service

Regular Service 8:30 am

Saguache

Regular Service 10:30 am

On April 10th there will be a
Good Friday Service 6 pm

**To all Trinity District
UMW units & members
Save the Date
Trinity District Spring Event**

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2020
Registration: 9:00 am – 9:30 am
\$6 registration fee due on arrival and includes snacks and lunch
Program Time: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Alamosa United Methodist Church
 2005 Mullins Ave Alamosa, CO
Speakers: Dr. Timothy Armstrong –
 "Our Ever-Changing Climate"
 Peggy Godfrey – Cowgirl Poet
Music: Adams State University ensemble
Mission Project: TBD

RSVP by March 30, 2020 to:

Frances Graves call 719-588-5520 umwfran.graves@gmail.com	Elise Rudolph call or text 719-480-3847 nerudolph@hotmail.com
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**SEE YOU THERE,
UMW TRINITY DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP TEAM**



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."

google.com/images



**530 5th Street
Saguache, CO 81149
Emergency Dial:
(719) 655-2525**

Top Senior Scams

Mail

Don't send any personal information—through email to anyone who you don't know, no matter what they've offered or promised. Never respond to a sweepstakes letter by sending a check to claim a prize. Only send checks to charities with which you are familiar. Buy and install a locking mailbox, or set up a P.O. box. Don't leave bill payment envelopes in your unsecured mailbox for pickup—take them to a postal mailbox. Carefully review monthly accounts for unauthorized charges. If merchandise that a senior didn't order arrives COD (cash on delivery), do not open it, but send it back. If you continue to get mail that is obviously a scam, take it to your local post office and the mail will be forwarded to the U.S. postal inspector.

Telephone

Don't give any personal information on the phone. Don't trust that people are who they say they are. Be wary when someone calls unexpectedly, even if they sound like the good guys. The real good guys will not ask for sensitive information. Beware of statements like: "You must act 'now' or the offer won't be good." "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize". Don't pay for a "free prize". Obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number and verify that before you transact business. Don't buy over the phone from an unfamiliar company.

Computer

Make sure your computer has all the security it needs and a security updating system. Learn to identify spam and scams. Don't respond to emails from people you don't know or to emails you haven't expected to receive. When making online purchases, don't give out your credit card number online unless the website is secure and reputable. Make sure you are purchasing merchandise from a reputable source. Guard your account information carefully. Check with the Better Business Bureau from the seller's area.

The Five Myths of Bible Study

Myth #1: You don't need to study the Bible with others.

We may think that because we have unlimited resources at our fingertips via the internet, we do not need other people. But when we **do this, we are cutting ourselves off from other's perspectives.** The scriptures are so rich and multilayered that we often miss some truths **that others may see.** Digging into God's words with others opens our eyes to see more from the Bible than we would see simply on our own.

Myth #2: You need a degree to study the Bible.

Theological education is a blessing that provides benefits that last a lifetime, but God did not give us the Bible just for the use of scholars **and pastors. The Bible is for all of God's people and he gave it to us** so that all of us could understand who he is and how he wants us to live.

Myth #3: You need to know Greek and Hebrew to study the Bible.

Even though the original Bibles are only in Greek and Hebrew, there are many faithful translations in English that accurately reflect what is written in the other languages.

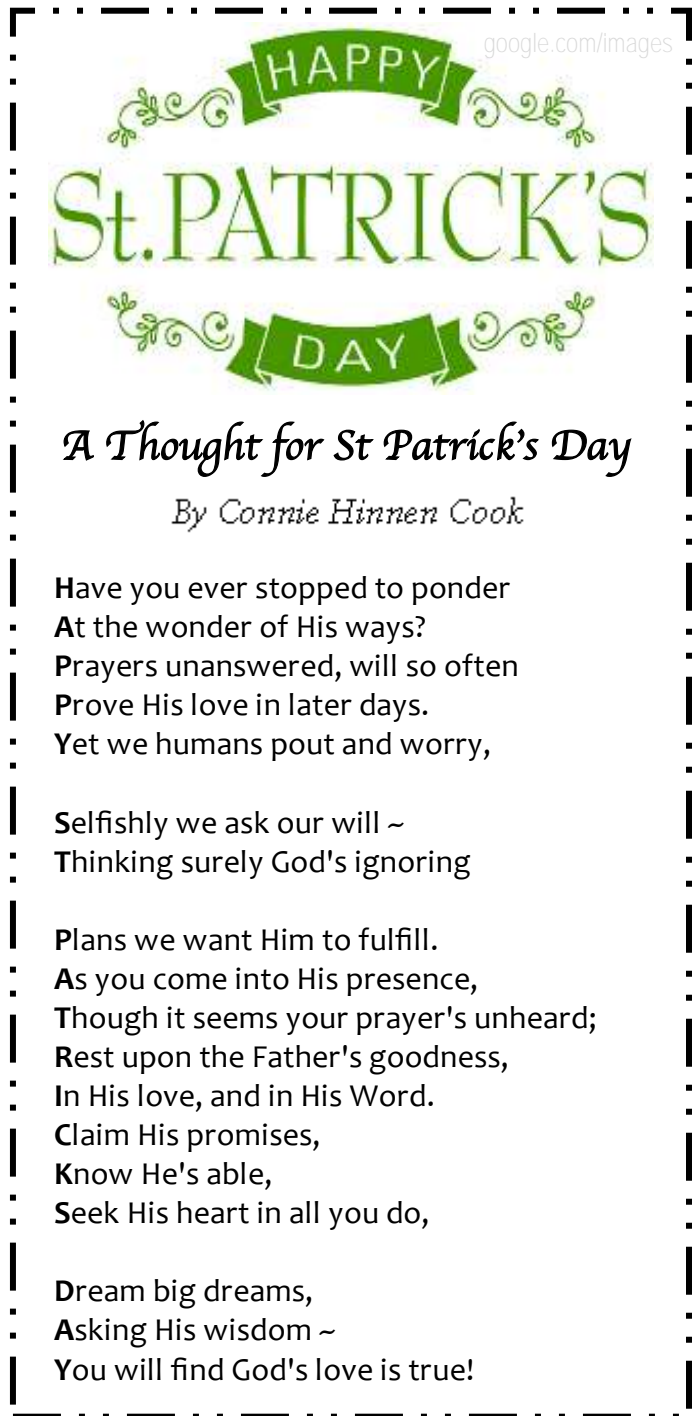
Myth #4: You need a lot of time to study the Bible.

Many of us lead very busy lives and we are under the false belief that in order to understand the Bible we must study the Bible in depth and with a focus that could only be done with a large amount of time all at once dedicated to it. In reality we have much more time that we **realize. It is possible to study God's words in small increments** throughout the day. 10 to 15 minutes while we are on our lunch break or waiting in the car to pick up the children from school is all that is needed to deepen our understanding of who God is and who he wants us to be.

Myth #5: You need a complicated method.

Some approaches can be very detailed and include a large number of steps. Now if we have the time to use these methods they can be very helpful in having an in depth understanding of the Scripture. But there is also the possibility that this will leave us overwhelmed and not wish to continue our study. It does not have to be this way. When asked **about the greatest commandment, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."** (Matt. 22:37–39 ESV). According to Jesus, everything in the Scripture is in someway related to loving God and loving our neighbors. A very simple and effective way to study the Bible is by asking good questions that help us see the very things God wants us to see.

Source: Crossway.org



Joke of the Month

An Irish Priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The State Trooper smells alcohol on the Priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car. He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the Priest. The Trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"

The Priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

Irish Sheppard's Pie



Prep
25 m

Cook

1 h 10 m

Ready In

1 h 35 m

Recipe by: Chef John (Allrecipes.com)

Ingredients

- ◆ 1 tbsp. olive oil
- ◆ 1 tbsp. butter
- ◆ 1 onion, diced
- ◆ 2 lbs. lean ground lamb
- ◆ 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- ◆ salt and pepper to taste
- ◆ 2 tsps. minced fresh rosemary
- ◆ 1 tsp. paprika
- ◆ 1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ◆ 1 tbsp. ketchup
- ◆ 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ◆ 2 1/2 cups water
- ◆ 1 (12 oz.) package frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- ◆ 2 1/2 lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and halved
- ◆ 1 tbsp. butter
- ◆ 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper
- ◆ 1/4 cup cream cheese
- ◆ 1/4 lb. Irish cheese, shredded
- ◆ 1 egg yolk
- ◆ 2 tsps. milk



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Place olive oil and butter in Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in onion and ground lamb; brown the meat, breaking it up into small crumbles as it cooks, about 10 minutes.
3. Stir in flour until incorporated, then mix in salt, black pepper, rosemary, paprika, cinnamon, ketchup, and garlic; cook and stir until garlic is fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Stir in water and scrape up any brown bits from the bottom of the Dutch oven. Reduce heat to medium-low and bring mixture to a simmer; cook and stir until thick, about 5-6 minutes.
5. Remove lamb mixture from heat and stir in peas and carrots until combined.
6. Spread lamb mixture into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish and set aside.
7. Place potatoes into a large pan of salted water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium, and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain well and return potatoes to pan.
8. Mash butter, cayenne pepper, cream cheese, and Irish cheese into the potatoes. Mash until combined and potatoes are smooth. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.
9. Whisk together egg yolk and milk in a small bowl; stir into the mashed potato mixture.
10. Top the lamb mixture in the baking dish with the mashed potatoes and spread evenly to cover.
11. Bake in the preheated oven until the top is golden brown and sauce is bubbling up around the edges, 25 to 30 minutes.