*Today’s Gospel Lesson reminds us of what can happen when we pray. It was while Jesus was praying*

*that His appearance changed and Moses and Elijah appeared. It was Jesus’ praying that caused Peter*

*to say “Master, it’s good that we’re here.” To be sure, good things happen when we pray. – Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville & Frankford Memorial United Methodist Churches***

**Transfiguration Sunday *Pretzel Sunday* February 27, 2022**

**Welcome**

 Chorus of Welcome *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

 **Call to Worship** *Psalm 99*

 *The Lord is king, and the people tremble. God sits on his throne above the winged creatures,*

 *and the earth shakes. The Lord is mighty in Zion; he is supreme over all the nations.*

*Everyone will praise his great and majestic name. Holy is he!*

 **Opening Hymn** *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* [VS. 1-3]# 64

 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
 cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
 only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Holy God, who before the suffering of Your only Son revealed His glory upon the holy mountain:**

 **Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of His appearance, may be strengthened to bear**

 **our cross and be changed into His likeness from glory to glory; Through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

 **who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………The Lord’s Prayer***

*Our Father, who art in heaven,**hallowed be Thy name;**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us. And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Gifts and Offerings The Doxology

 *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” # 95*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *“O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair”* # 258

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 O wondrous sight! O vision fair of glory that the church shall share,

 which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declares how with the three disciples there
where Moses and Elijah meet, the Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place, two chosen witnesses of grace;
the Father's voice from out the cloud proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest that day
what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery;

for which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 9:28-36*

 About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up

 on a mountain to pray. **29**As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes

 flashed white like lightning. **30**Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. **31**They were clothed

 with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus’ departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem.

**32**Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake

 and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

**33**As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it’s good that we’re here.

 We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—but he didn’t know

 what he was saying. **34**Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered

 the cloud, they were overcome with awe.

**35**Then a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!” **36**Even as the voice

 spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.

 **Sermon** *“As He Was Praying…”*

 **Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

 I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

 the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

 from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn**  *“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”* [VS. 1-4] # 500

 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
 stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.

 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
 no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

 Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
 To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh, teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

**Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**Choral Benediction**  *“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”* [VS. 5] # 500

 Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame;
 the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

*Do you desire to defeat the presence of sin in your life?*

*The Bible helps us fight sin in our lives.*

**March 2, 2022 - Ash Wednesday**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 - Psalm 51:1-17 - 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

**March 6, 2022 - First Sunday in Lent**

Luke 4:1-13 - Deuteronomy 26:1-11 - Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 - Romans 10:8b-13

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.***

*Praying for one another is a powerful way for us to bear one another’s burdens. It is a loving act to pray for someone and join them in taking the pain of their heart to God.*

**Prayer Requests 2/20/2022**

**Eva Baumgartel** fractured her foot and is wearing a walking boot until it heals

**Marina Macauley** - hurt her back, prayers for recovery

**Sarah Coker** (Collingwoode's mother) is in the hospital for neck and head pain

**Alisha** (friend of Marina's) has a brain tumor and needs surgery

**Phil Lee** - surgery is scheduled for March 4th to remove hardware from his leg

**Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace**

**Robert Farrer** - recovery is coming along well, continued prayers for healing.

**Jim Creevey** - still having trouble with leg nerve pain

**Andrew Wilson** (Wilson's grandson) continued prayers for healing

**JOY** - Farol had a good Samaritan pay for her grocery purchase.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Zilpha Browne Dorothy Buzzard

Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Sheryl Duke Fred Frank Rev. Khan

Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family

Sylvia Spotts Suzanne Turner Ethel Graman

 Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

 Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth. After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, “you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin.

 As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or “Repent, and believe the gospel” recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

 Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

**Wednesday, March 2nd - Ash Wednesday**

Worship at Crescentville UMC at 7:00 PM Holy Communion & imposition of ashes.

**Sunday, March 6th - First Sunday of Lent**

Holy Communion & HOMEMADE SOUP FUNDRAISER

**Wednesdays’ during lent - March 9th thru April 6th**

 Vesper Services led by Pastor Randy 7:00 PM on Zoom

 **SPRING FLEA MARKET** – please donate items to church for this spring event.

Recently, the boiler in the parsonage had to be replaced, costing around $ 10,000. The boiler was very old, as is the heating system in our church building. The church heating system will also need to be replaced before next winter. We are still receiving estimates for that installation. Please consider these high building maintenance costs when giving your weekly offerings and the monthly offering for the building improvement fund. We will also have fundraisers to raise funds for the heating systems.

**WE ARE TURNING UP THE HEAT!**

Edward Paye will be making a spicy West African Pepper Soup to please the palates of those who like it hot! This soup also contains shrimp and chicken.

Our Women’s fellowship will be making Tomato Rice Soup for those who “don’t do spicy”.

The cost per quart of this soup for fundraising will be $10.00,

and will be available for purchase on March 6th.

**The "Little Arms" of prayer**

During the season of Lent we remember the saving action of our Lord Jesus Christ in a variety of ways. Ashes help us to remember the cost of our redemption and our destiny as humans. Palms remind us of the divinity of Christ and his willingness to suffer for us. And pretzels remind us to pray every day.

Did I just say *pretzels*?

Yes, pretzels are a Lenten tradition in Christianity dating back to the early 600s. The first pretzel was an invention of an Italian monk who was looking for a simple reminder to his brother monks that Lent is a time for prayer. So, fashioning a Lenten bread with only flour, water and salt (in those days people cooked without butter or oil during Lent), he rolled out the dough in strips. Then he gave the world the distinc­tive pretzel shape by folding the strip of dough over itself, just as one would cross one's arms over the heart in a gesture of prayer. The bread was then baked as a soft bread, just like the big soft pretzels we have today.

In the shape of crossed arms, these little breads were called *bracellae,* the Latin word for "little arms." From this word came the German word *bretzel*, the root of our familiar word *pretzel*.

Today, we have pretzels as a reminder of the importance of prayer, of daily turning to our Lord this Lent so that we better prepare for the great events of Holy Week and the Easter celebration. Each pretzel is a delicious Lenten treat to remind us to turn to the Lord often and "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

*Lord, may these pretzel snacks remind us to always turn to you in prayer.*