

# Circuit Rider

Saybrook United Methodist Church

*“People trying to live like Jesus”*

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*Matthew 4:1-11* Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.®](http://www.biblica.com) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

*4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

February 17th is Ash Wednesday, which is the traditional day in which we begin the season of Lent.... that traditional season of self denial.

Lent, that traditional time of year when we give up, that is, sacrifice, something for 40 days (Sundays are not included) in order to help us focus better on the sacrifice of Jesus. We do that with the hope that in doing so, maybe, the practice will help us to become a better follower of Christ, a better “Christian”, and draw us closer to God. The *umc.org* states it this way: *Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan.*”

A period of 40 days and the denying of ones self..... When I share that concept with other persons this year it seems like the response is, (myself included) “40 days?... It seems like

I have been living the past 10 months in self denial...” Social Distancing, No Hugs, No Visiting, No Gatherings.... Including church, No dining in restaurants, No Community Dinners, Bible Studies only on line, as well as some of (and for me, many of) our meetings. (and again for me) even some of our (my) Doctor appointments have been on line, and at most of our (my) in person Doctor appointments we (I) have to go in alone (and again, for me....my wife.... A nurse, wasn't even allowed in.) AND with all of that whining out.... I miss you.....! I miss seeing you on a regular basis, Hugging you, Pot Lucking and Community Dinnering with you, going to Beckers.... Out in the public and doing Studies with you..... BUT

40 days in the wilderness..... for Jesus, it was more than just 40 days in the wilderness. It was really something much more than just that short time period, a little bit longer than a month, within his 33 years of walking the face of this earth, with no food and a few temptations from Satan. It was more than just 33 years away from a physical touching with the Father. Sure, there was prayer.... But we all know, a phone call with the one you love surely is not the same as being in the same space with them...

And to top it all off... His wilderness experience included that moment when he shouted out from the cross “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” *Matthew 27:46* when there on that cross, taking upon himself all of our sins.... all of our dirt, He became fully separated, for the first time in all of eternity, from the Holiness of the Father. Each year during Lent, that is what we are called to remember....

But this year....in all honesty I really don't know how to put it all into words. I'm not sure after almost a year of this how we may be feeling this Lenten season. This year we are feeling some of those pangs of separation like we have never felt before.... Trust me, nothing like Jesus felt.... But so much more that the coffee or chocolate that we have given up in the past. In previous years I have said, “for the most part, during Lent, we fake it”. We give up our coffee or our chocolate, or maybe we try cut back on our smoking or some other “bad” habit... that is, except on Sundays, ‘cause as we all know Lent is 40 days.... And we don't count Sundays..... But this year it is different. This year we have no choice, that is we have no choice if we have chosen to be responsible and are trying to keep our family and friends safe. No choice if we have chosen to try to defeat this Satan that is living among us. But with that said.... As a people of faith, what we do realize is that at the end of every Lent there is an Easter.... There is a Day of Resurrection..... there is a Day of New Life and of New Beginnings. My prayer for you in this time of wilderness is that you feel the strength and companionship of God... that you maintain the power to resist Satan and all of his temptations... Worship and bow down only to God and listen only to His voice..... And during this Lent, prepare and look forward to that glorious day when the trials of the wilderness will be over and the angels of heaven, in victory and celebration will come.

His Peace,  
Jeff

<sup>4</sup> *Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.*

<sup>5</sup> *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalm 30*



# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Penny Vaughn	14	Mitch Wilson
2	<b>Harold &amp; Lou Buck</b>	17	Robert Bogush
4	Judith Verdi	20	Linda Gray
4	Khloe Stout	20	Mia Loveland
4	Emma Stoneman	20	Kyle Richmond
6	Carol Loudermilk	20	Jacob Palmer
7	Maddie Loudermilk	21	Hayden Beals
7	Paige Fox	24	Ellen Benedict
7	Robert Weimer	25	James Harrington
8	Susan Miller	27	Mary Lewis
12	<b>Donald &amp; Mary Clugh</b>	28	Landon Pimental
13	Jim Keesler	28	Abby Parks

### Every One of Your Birthdays

Every one of your birthdays  
is a gift to the rest of us  
who have had the pleasure  
of having you in our lives  
for another year.

Every one of your birthdays  
brings joyful memories  
of your bright smile  
and your love of life.

Every one of your birthdays  
reminds us of your sensitivity  
and service to others,  
and other delights  
too numerous to name  
that we are gifted with  
just by knowing you.

Happy Birthday  
to one in a million.  
May you, and we  
enjoy many more.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

### Loving Pair

It takes two special people,  
To make a loving pair.  
There's a joy just being around you,  
A feeling we love to share.

We send anniversary wishes to you,  
For years of joy and pleasure.  
May each year keep getting better,  
With memories to treasure.

*By Joanna and Karl Fuchs*

*“I know the plans I have in mind for  
you, declares the Lord; they are plans  
for peace, not disaster, to give you a  
future filled with hope.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

*As a local United Methodist Congregation we promise to honor God with:*



### **On Going Prayer Concerns**

Our Churches, Our Shut Ins, Our Military, Our College Students,  
Our Pastor & Family, Missionaries, Dee Ann Rich, Ethan & Ashley Batschelet,  
Ed & Linda Gray, Richard Clugh, Don & Mary Clugh Family, MaryLee Verdi, River,  
Betty Hansen, Carol Loudermilk, Richard & Grace Arnold, Jim & Phyllis Wright,  
Mary Simmons, Dean Moore, Howard Hewitt, Erik Pimentel, Kurt Brindley, Eva  
DeCamillo, Rev. Scott Walsh, Roy Stiltner II, Donna Juras, Linda Johnson,  
Larry & Dixie Liggett, Bruce & Sue DeRidder, Art & Debbie Scott, Chuck & Janette  
Davis, Caroline, Lori Leibbrandt, Betty Harting, Eddie & Linda Dana, Heather Long,  
Sherry & Ken Livingston, Marilyn Lundquist, Rona, Rev. Doug Lewis, Sandy Connley,  
Sarraah Brown, Ben, Mary Hamilton, Mark & Family, Juli, Rita, Mary Lewis, Stoneman  
Family, Jim Wright, Judy, John & Laura Morgan, Edie Warren, Harold & Lou Buck,  
Janet Renard, Korey Stoneman, Cathy Morgan, Mat Sobolewski, Sandy Mead, Rick  
Arnold, Erik & Heather Peterson, Keith Davidson, Jackie McKee, Mark DiBell,  
Bradley, Alex Gonzalez, Joel, Nellie, Brent, Aiden, Alex & Family, Mary Ann Gage,  
Jud Palmer, Dave, Mel & Family, The Fifer Family, Jerri Shultz, Patrick Zoblefin,  
Jim McKee, Shawn & Gerry, Jill & Family, David & Family, Maryilyn,  
Keith Youngberg, Landon, Scott & Colleen, Howard, Alex, Denny Densmore,  
Louise Ebetino, Michelle, Sue, Sheila, Ron & Joyce Shelestak & Family, Ruth Falcione,  
Jim Shinault & Family, The Kalinowski Family, Larry & Laura, Becky Reese,  
Roy & Earline Stiltner, John, John Dean, Karen Klimek, Barb Swiger, The Teachout  
Family, Norma Lambert and Family for the loss of her cousin Ronald LePottry.  
Bobbi Brindley and Family, Ron Smith's mother and family for comfort

### *Our Gifts*

#### ***Stewardship Update***

01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020

<b>Offerings &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$177,204.73</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<u><b>\$180,363.19</b></u>
<b>Balance Deficit</b>	<b>-\$3,158.46</b>
	<u><b>+\$3,158.46</b></u>
	<b>-0-</b>

**Money was taken from the  
Sexton- Sanborn Fund to balance out the  
budget for 2020**

**Thank you!**

### *Our Service*

#### **Online Services every Sunday**

9:30am Church Service Inside and  
online. Every Wed. Taize from 9:00-  
5:00pm & Communion on the rail.

#### **2/17- Ash Wednesday**

Open Communion  
Noon-5:00 Pre-Recorded Service  
Utube Service at 5:00pm

If things change, we will be calling you  
to let you know. *Be Safe & Blessings*  
With the virus in mind of course there  
is social Distancing & wearing Masks

## *and Our Witness*

By Betty Cochran

### *Holy Spirit*

**John 14:26**

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Yes, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this is God's promise.

Can you see the Holy Spirit at work?

Just look around, open your eyes and you will see it.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

Do you think the following is because of the Holy Spirit?

Kind Deeds such as:

The guy in the grocery store that let's you go ahead of him because you have less than him.

Someone stopping their car and removing an object in the road that could cause an accident

The dandelion that a child picks for you.

I look at the Holy Spirit as the good that flows through us. Our conscious, that keeps us on the right road.

Knowing right from wrong.

Our remembrance of what we have learned from the Bible and our teachers.

There is so much more to the Holy Spirit than just a few blurbs that I have seen and pointed out, **but the Holy Spirit is available to all of us, just waiting for you to except Christ in your heart.**

**Romans 5:3-5**

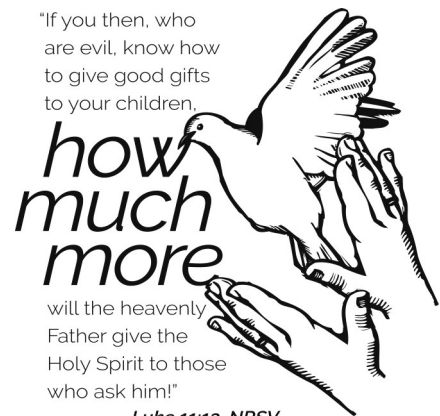
*More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

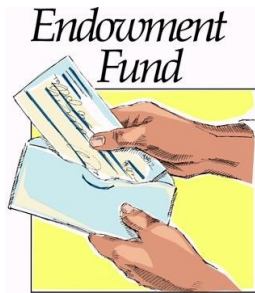
"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,

*how much more*

will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*Luke 11:13, NRSV*





The Endowment Committee Donated \$2000.00 to the GoMinistry to continue their mission. They were so appreciated because they just got a \$1900.00 gas bill.

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35



Our Telephone prayer chain has dwindled out and we would like to revive it! There are still many people who do not have email. If you would like to be a part of it, please give me a call at the office or let Cheryl McLaren know.



**LENTEN STUDY:  
The Book of Psalms**

By: Dr. James "Mickey" Efir  
This summary study examines the 10 types of Psalms, why they were written, and how they were used. Throughout we find kindred spirits as we struggle to affirm our trust in God in the face of the ills of the world. This study also teaches us how to use the Psalms as guides for writing and praying our own psalms for the glory of God. You will acquire a new love for these love songs to God. The Psalms video lessons consists of 8 sessions lasting approximately 20 minutes each. We will again be using ZOOM, so let Jeff or Betty know that you are interested so that we may get you the ZOOM information and the needed participant's guide.

We will be meeting each Week beginning the Monday before Ash Wednesday (February 15) and ending the Monday following Easter Sunday (April 5).

***Hope to see you there!!!!***

(and if this is a bad time for you, but you are still interested, let Jeff know and we will see about a second meeting time.)

“THERE'S MORE *Foy*  
IN *giving*  
THAN IN RECEIVING.”

A very lovely lady named Terry is buying up new clothing for those in need . If you see anything that someone in need is able to wear or would like to talk to her about or maybe different clothing that is needed please call me at 440-969-1562 / my cell 440-361-5201 or email the saybrookumc1@gmail.com and I will give Terry your phone number so she can call you back.

Here's just a **few** of the clothing she has purchased and she is buying more every week.

### **Men**

Size 30x34 Men's Grey Slim Jeans

38x30 Men's Dark Tan Jeans

34x32 Men's Blue Denim Jeans

Large 36/38 Men's White Briefs, pack of 9

Medium 32/34 Men's Black Trunks Pack of 3

Small 28/30 Men's Black/Grey Boxer Briefs

6-12 Shoe size Men's White crew socks Pack of 3

### **Baby Clothes**

6-9mo—Furry Pink Coat

Infant

24 mo 2pc. Romper & Top

3-6 mo-Denim Pinafore

18 mo-Plaid Pinafore

24 mo-2 pc. Romper & Top

18 mo-Fairy Play outfit

### **Toddler**

4T Pink Play Outfit

3T-Frozen II Footy nightwear

4-5 xs-Black Skunk T Shirt

Small Grey Cbs Top

5T Camo Jeans

Girl Size 5—Pkg. of 4 Bikini Underpants

Girls Size 8-Pkg of 9 Hipster Underpants

Size 5 Pink Tug Boots

XL Girls Red/with Pearls Sweater

Thank you Betty Cochran





## **VALENTINE'S DAY**

It's that time of year again for our **Valentine's Day boxes**. If you have a son, daughter or grandchild who is taking college courses or is currently serving in the military and you think they would enjoy a box of **Valentine's treats** please provide the address to either the church office or email

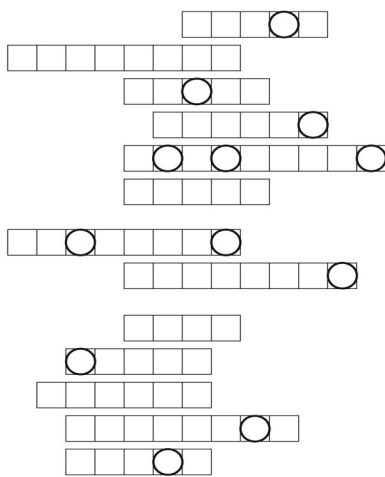
Pam Whelan @ [bobdawn53@hotmail.com](mailto:bobdawn53@hotmail.com) by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

If you would like to make a donation of individually wrapped cookies, candies, chips, other goodies or a monetary donation for postage it can be dropped off at the church **by the morning of Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. There is a **Valentine's decorated box** by the back door of the church where you can drop donations in or fill out a card with the address of a student or member of our armed forces.

We will be packing the boxes on the morning of **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** at the church. We look forward to sending these **Valentine's Day blessings** to our college students and to those serving in our military. We pray that it brightens their day and they know the congregation at Saybrook United Methodist Church is thinking of them.

*Thank you, The Membership Committee*

- 1. What Jesus was wrapped in
- 2. The site of Jesus' crucifixion
- 3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
- 4. He washed his hands of Jesus
- 5. Followers of Jesus
- 6. He denied Christ
- 7. A large hill
- 8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
- 9. Jesus' mother
- 10. A Jewish teacher
- 11. The doubting disciple
- 12. Jesus was mistaken for this
- 13. One of Peter's other names



Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter,  
 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. gardener,  
 13. Simon; resurrection