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# The Linwood Lindy



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*Lent is Near - Time to Get Spiritually Fit*



As I write this article for the Lindy News, I am very aware that we are rapidly approaching the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, (March 5 this year), which marks the beginning of the Lenten season, is just days away. You don't need all your fingers to count the days before we start a time together that has traditionally been set apart for the purpose of drawing closer to God and experiencing the presence of our Lord with greater intensity.

Unfortunately, the Lenten season often gets reduced to the question, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Nothing wrong with the question, but it can only take one so far. The real question of the Lenten season is, “How will I turn away from those habits and practices which create distance between myself and God, and return to the way of life we are all called to live as disciples of Jesus?” Put in traditional church language, the question of the season becomes this: “How do I repent and return to God with all my heart?”

To truly answer this important spiritual question requires one to first identify the ways in which one’s life has strayed away from the ways of God, then to identify the disciplines that might draw one back to a better relationship with the Lord. To do so calls for an honest appraisal of the status of one’s spiritual life. I can only speak for myself, but my experience has been that I have less trouble being honest about the condition of my spiritual health than I do integrating the practices and discipline needed to get back to where I want to be. It is not unlike the battle to lose those extra pounds I know I have picked up over the years. Appraising the truth of my extra weight is easy. Taking off the weight and getting into shape is a whole other matter.

The traditional practices related to Ash Wednesday provide a good introduction to some of the concrete disciplines that have the potential to help us return to God in the places where we have wandered or to renew our passion where our hearts have grown cold. These include (but not are not limited to) — prayer and fasting, self-examination and repentance, forgiving others as we have been forgiven, and “storing up treasure in heaven” by giving generously to those in need. Exactly how one defines and practices these disciplines may vary greatly from individual to individual. But, they have stood the test of time over one-hundred generations of faithful Christians, and have proven over and over to produce results. When trying to lose weight, changing to a healthier diet and engaging in regular exercise works every time. With our spiritual health, setting aside a regular time to read the scriptures, pray, and practice our faith by being generous to others, always works to draw us closer to God.

My daily prayer this Lenten season will be that it be a fruitful time of growth in understanding and practice of our faith for all of us.

*Pastor Frank*

## ***Thoughts & Prayers***



### ***Health Issues:***

Martha Etheridge, Marilyn Henegen, Anne Crapo, Judy Mecher, Pastor Lynne

### ***Prayers have been asked for:***

Jerry & Sue Meyers, Brian Slowinski, Aaron Cepeda, Toby Parson, Jake Marshall, Jessie Patton, Sheila Patton, Rob Welch, Megan Clouse, Bud Riddle, Billie Carson, Karen Raub, Doug Engle, Jenn Streyckmans, Margie Wilson, Louise Scrougham, Nancy Schoen, George Hill, Charlotte Schumaker, Christopher Ignaut, Damea Carr, Dan Rau, Charles Weaver, Mary Tyson, Greg and Becky Spudic, Tom Chisholm, Connie Kramer, Lana Tekulve, Fred Fowler, John Franke, Jennifer Kelly, Tim Hurst, Fay Walker-Wells, Debbie Rhoads, Jason Kropp, Ellie Kerr

### ***We join with God's loving concerns for those facing life's difficult times:***

Tom & Nancy Horstman, Faye Carson, John McMillan, Debbie Ignaut, James Neubauer, Dee Miller, Nancy Pottorff, Joyce Franke, the entire Kerr family

***Our prayers of Joy are offered for:*** Debbie Rhoads who has great Test results; Damea Carr who had successful surgery!

***Prayers of Condolences offered for the family and friends of:*** Lyle Hatley's uncle, Bud Riddle, who passed away on February 14<sup>th</sup>; t Andrew Martin's friend and school-mate, Evan Marks, who passed away February 3<sup>rd</sup>; the lives lost in recent air accidents in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, PA, and Nome, AK; Mary Tyson who passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and "Jack" Martin who passed on January 12<sup>th</sup>

***Our prayers of Safety, Healing, and Comfort are offered for:*** the recent storms and flooding in Kentucky and Tennessee and the plane accident in Toronto.

**Do you know someone who has recently been displaced due to wildfires, power outages, floods, mudslides, or winter storms? Do you wonder how you could help them?**



Almost everyone in the United States has been affected by the recent weather conditions. Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering for Week of Compassion**.

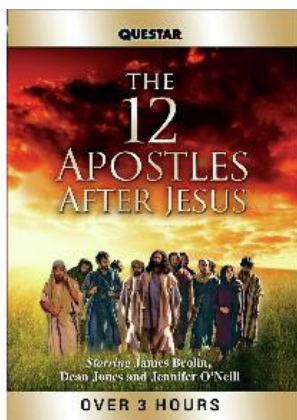
Funds received through the offering enable Disciples through Week of Compassion to respond to disaster when it occurs, working with partners to provide solidarity grants to meet urgent needs of emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food.

The annual **Special Offering** – observed in most churches during the last two Sundays in February – is set aside for congregations to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together not just in domestic and international disaster response, but in refugee and immigrant response, and sustainable development funding worldwide.

At Linwood, you can donate any amount, at any time, with your regular offering, or separately. Just indicate the amount you want to go to Week of Compassion (W.O.C.)



Ed Urban will wrap up the first third of the book of Psalms [Psalm 50] on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



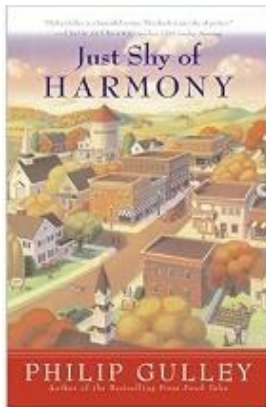
Beginning of March 2, we will begin a 10 session viewing of the movie *The 12 Apostles after Jesus* in which Dr. Luke relates the entire book of The Acts of the Apostles on a verse by verse basis while sailing to meet his friend Theophilus. It is told both as narrative and enactments of the events portrayed. The three hour movie will be shown in 20-25 minute segments starting promptly at 9:25 leaving 5 – 10 minutes for discussion after the viewing. For this movie we will be meeting in the large classroom across the hall from the library.

We meet for 30 minutes on Sunday mornings at 9:20 in the library. Stop by the parlor and bring your coffee and snack along to class.

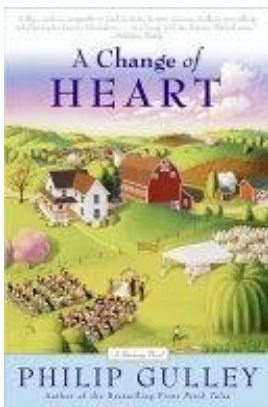


## The Book Nook

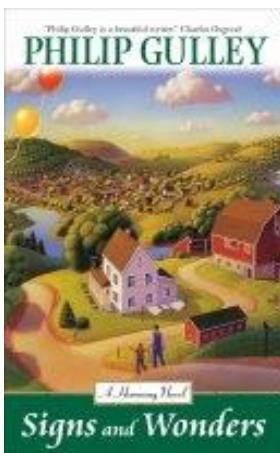
Here are some books in our library to warm up by this Winter, all by author Philip Gulley.



*Just Shy of Harmony* takes place in Harmony, Indiana. The book spans two Easters, in which in which Quaker pastor Sam Gardner and the members of his flock discover surprising answers to life's challenging mysteries.



*A Change of Heart.* Of this book the Indianapolis Star wrote: "It's Gulley's Hoosier humor that readers return for." Pastor Sam Gardner celebrates five years at Harmony Friends meeting and the whole town is abuzz as Deena Morrison marries the town's most eligible bachelor, Dale Hinshaw hovers on the brink of death, and Amanda must face the return of her prodigal biological parents.



*Signs and Wonders.* Filled with master storyteller Philip Gulley's trademark humor and depth of insight, this wise, joyous novel will delight and satisfy both those who know and love Harmony and those who are just discovering it. Among other anecdotes, Dale Hinshaw is back and floating another of his crackpot ministry schemes-this time, quite literally, with his Salvation Balloons project.

Joan Woodruff  
Church Librarian

## *Special Events ...*

We welcome you to join us during the Lenten Season. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss an event.

March 5	Ash Wednesday	Receiving of Ashes Service in the Chapel at 6p
March 12	1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
March 19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
March 26	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 9	5 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 13	Palm Sunday	Distribution of Palm Branches Service in the Sanctuary 10:30a
April 16	6 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Culmination of Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Pastor Frank Meditation at 6:30p
April 20	Easter Sunday	Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00a Breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:30a He Is Risen Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:30a

## *From the Pews ...*

What is the first thing a French Groundhog sees on February 2<sup>nd</sup>?

His "Chateau", of course!

Why is the Piano so hard to open?

Because the KEYS are already inside!!

## *Sharing Sundays ...*

Although we certainly would love to have you attend our Sunday Services, we know that "Logistics" and "Life" can get in the way. Do you know that you can watch the service from almost anywhere thanks to modern day technology and the Internet? Live and archived service streams are available at: [YouTube.com/@LinwoodCC](https://www.youtube.com/@LinwoodCC)

Visit our Web Page at [www.linwoodchristian.org](http://www.linwoodchristian.org) to find out more about what is going on at Linwood.

To submit an entry or comment on what you want to read about in the Lindy, you can Email us at: [linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net) Or mail to:

With Subject: Lindy

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Entries for next Lindy: March 17, 4p

*Your Lindy Crew*