

Lyndonville United Methodist News

Upcoming Ministries, Meetings & Programs <u>March 2024</u>

| Mar 3 | Sunday School | 9AM |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| | Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary | 10AM |
| Mar 10 | Sunday School | MAB |
| | Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary | 10AM |
| Mar 11 Mar 12 | Hope Resales Meeting | 6PM 6PM |
| | Ad Council Meeting | |
| Mar 17 | Sunday School | 9AM |
| | Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary | 10AM |
| | St, Patrick's Day | |
| | GUEST PREACHER: MIKE MINOR | |
| Mar 23 | Easter Egg Hunt | 11AM |
| Mar 24 | Sunday School | MAB |
| | Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary | 10AM |
| | Palm Sunday | |
| Mar 28 | Holy Thursday In Church Library | 7PM |
| Mar 29 | Good Friday | |
| | **Cross Walk with LYMA** | Noon |
| Mar 30 | Easter Flower Donations Due @ Church | 1DAM |
| Mar 31 | Easter Breakfast (Bring a Dish) | 8:30AM |
| | Sunday School | MAB |
| | Worship Service-Online & in Sanctuary | 10AM |
| | EASTER SUNDAY | |

How To Contact Us: Address: PO Box 483

102 North Main St.

Lyndonville, NY 14098

Email: lyndonvilleumc @gmail.com Facebook: LyndonvilleUmc Website: <u>www.lyndonvilleumc.org</u>

Prayer Request email:

noahzarf@gmail.com

PASTOR TIM SCHULTZ

Office hours:

Tues & Wed

9am to 2pm

Pastor's Cell Phone: (716)778-4655

email address:

timothyschultz@outlook.com

Church Office Phone

585-765-9313

Administrative Assistant Office Hours Tues & Wed

8am to 12pm

Service Times

Sunday School 9:00am

Worship in the Sanctuary & Online 10 :00 am *LyndonvilleUmc*

On Facebook



Wednesday 10 Am to 1 PM

Friday 10 AM to 1 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM

🖉 Thursday 🛛 4 PM to 7 PM

Volunteers Always Welcome!!! Please Call the church office 585-765-9313

Community Thrift Store

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIVING!!!!

Let us continue practicing "Extravagant Generosity." Send your offerings by US mail to P.D. Box 483 Lyndonville NY 14098, or online through Tithe.ly "Remember whoever sows sparingly will also



At the Cross by Pastor Tim Schultz

From early childhood, especially in Baptist churches, I heard many hymns and songs about the Cross of Jesus. One that got stamped in my soul contains this refrain: "At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the burden of my soul rolled away." It is a touching hymn that begs the question: How can a violent execution of an innocent man have such theological and emotional weight to us living two thousand years later?

To answer that question, we need to look to the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) to see how seriously a holy God took the sins of the people he had called to be his own. To be forgiven and feel acceptable to God, the people sacrificed animals (which leaves me and other animal lovers with a sense of sadness). While we live in a world of casual acceptance of sin—including "Sin City" being a popular vacation destination—God does not overlook sin or wink at it. The Old Testament presents a harsh divine approach to sin.

During the Lenten season, we focus on the death of Jesus, as he was the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Yes, I wish there was an easier or less gruesome way to deal with sin, but our scriptures reveal that "in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself." In other words, Jesus was the sacrifice that made a way for a transaction to take place: we are cleansed and saved because of what Jesus did! A wonderful modern hymn by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend states it this way: "This, the power of the cross, Son of God, slain for us. What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross."

In this season of reflection, I hope you will take some time to ponder the Cross of Jesus. Pick up a hymnal and read the songs from the "passion and death" section. Look in your Bible concordance (in the back) for references to "cross." For further study, get a hold of a book on the Cross, such as John Stott's classic, *The Cross of Christ*, or Tony Evans', *The Power of the Cross*.

I wish there was a formula that was less shocking to restore us to God, instead of the horrific suffering of Jesus on the cross. But that is what we must go on. And when an individual realizes for the first time—deeply—that Jesus died for them, it is transforming. Indeed, a burden rolls away!

Here is a prayer from Rick Renner that you can pray, if you desire: Lord, I thank You that You died on the Cross for me and purchased my salvation. Thank You for saving me from sin and its penalty. Thank You that there is nothing I can do to add to Your work on the Cross. Today I am making the decision to quit strug-

gling about my salvation and to simply rest in the salvation You have provided for me. I asked You to save me, and You saved me. I asked You to forgive me, and You forgave me. From this day forward, I will rest in the complete work of redemption that You purchased for me with Your precious blood. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me!

I pray this in Jesus' name!



Hypothetical Grace



Often when I'm reading, I'll come across a phrase that catches my eye. I usually write it on a sticky note and attach it to something on or near my desk. It gets stuck in my brain, and it bounces around in my mind. Ultimately it captures my imagination, and then I have to write about it. One such phrase is "hypothetical grace".

John Wesley believed that we experience grace in three stages; Prevenient Grace - grace which precedes faith drawing us to God; Justifying Grace - grace that assures forgiveness when we repent and accept God's gift of new life in Christ; and Sanctifying Grace - grace that continues the work on our hearts. To be sanctified is to be made holy. We would do well to remember here that holiness is not an expression of our behavior, it is a condition of our hearts.

Wesley believed and taught that God's grace is more powerful than sin and that God's grace shapes us throughout our lives. After God's <u>prevenient grace</u> makes us aware of our need for Christ, we are by faith reconciled through God's <u>justifying grace</u>, our spiritual growth continues. With God's sanctifying grace, and we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Now... of course Wesley had no use for hypothetical grace. Probably didn't even occur to him. When I think of hypothetical grace I think of grace with a but, or maybe an if. You receive grace if... or you might receive grace but... I wonder if our human understanding of God's grace is so lacking that what we accept and what we offer is sometimes hypothetical... offered with a caveat. I think this is a problem for Christians... especially in the world today. Hypothetical grace is, at best, conditional, and at worst hypocritical.

God's grace is unconditional. In John 5:1-15 (go read it now) Jesus heals a lame man. When Jesus saw the man he asked him "Would you like to get well?" The man's answer was, "I can't". (How many times do we respond to God with "I can't?") Jesus tells the man to "stand up, pick up your mat and walk." Immediately the man was healed. Later in verse 15 Jesus finds the man in the temple and says to him "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something worse will happen to you."

At first read this sounds like grace with a caveat, but I don't think it is. I think that when Jesus asked the man do you want to get well he wasn't really referring to physical healing. I suspect that the man's physical condition stood as a barrier to the spiritual healing that Jesus was offering. So Jesus healed him physically first and then spoke to him again in the temple with words that pierced the man's soul. When Jesus said "stop sinning or something even worse will happen" I don't think it was a threat to take away the grace already offered... I think it was an offer of even more grace to help the man see the need in his heart.

We don't get to determine who deserves grace. We can only receive it and offer it to others. In doing so we need to remember that we are made differently by design. Being made in God's image doesn't mean we're a bunch of spiritual robots all programmed the same. God made each of us to be unique, each with our own gifts, sensibilities, and purpose. No one of us can do or be everything but together we can do or be everything that we are called to be as the body of Christ. We are made different by design. I believe our differences bother us more than they do God.

Faithfully, Anne

March Devotional Words:

Happiness: Scripture Psalm 144:15 Quote: "Happiness depends on your mindset and your attitude." Roy T Bennett

Repentance: Scripture James 4:8 Quote "Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you." Bruce Wilkinson **Form:** Scripture Philippians 2:6 Quote "Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point." C S Lewis **Wilderness:** Scripture Ezekiel 34:25 Quote "Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit." Edward Abbey **Finished:** Scripture John 19:30 "When you're finish changing, you're finished." Benjamin Franklin





Please Bring Your Easter Flower donation To the Church Gy Sat. March 30th @10:00am

*Due to allergies we ask that you Please refrain from any Lily type flower**



| Sunday | Mo | nday | Tuesday | M | lednesda | iY | Thursday | Frida | ач | Saturday |
|--|----|-------------------------|--|--------|-------------------------------|----|---|--|-------|---|
| | | | | | | | | 1 Hope Res 10AM-1F | | 2. Hope Resales 10AM-1PM |
| 3 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service 10AM | 4 | | 5 | ¢ H | lope Resales 10AM-1PM | | 7 | & Hope Res 10AM-1 <mark>F</mark> | | 9 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM |
| 10 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service 10AM | me | Resale eting 00PM | 12 AD Council <u>Mee</u> ting @6:00PM | 13 | Hope Resales 10AM-1PM | | 14 | 15 8:301 Food The Hope Res 10AM-1 | sales | 1¢ Hope Resales 10AM-1PM |
| 17 Sunday School @ 9:00am Worship Service 10AM Guest Preacher: Mike Minor | 18 | | 19 | 20 |) Hope Resales 10AM-1PM | | 21 | 22. Hope Res 10AM-1 | | 23 EASTER EGG HUNT 11:00AM Hope Resales 10AM-1PM |
| 24 Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10AM PALM SUNDAY | 25 | | 26 | 27 | 7 Hope Resales 10AM-1PM | | 28 THURSDAY Church Library @ 7PM | 29 GOOD FRID Crossew @ Noce Hope Resales | alk | 31 Easter Flower Donations due @10AM Hope Resales 1DAM-1PM |
| 31 Easter Breakfast 8:3DAM Sunday School @ 9:0Dam WORSHIP SERVICE 10AM | | | | | | | | | | |



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