

THE CARILLON



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

March 1	Luke 21: 5-19 "Dying to Change"
March 8	John 4: 5-42 "The Other Samaritan"
March 15	John 9: 1-41 "New Eyesight in Christ"
March 22	Psalm 130 "Hole of Forgiveness"
March 29	Matthew 26: 14-27 "Traitors"

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

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MARCH 2026

- 1 11:30 am Bicentennial committee meeting
- 8 11:30 am Deacons meeting
- 9 7:00 pm Trustees meeting
- 15 11:30 am Cabinet meeting
- 17 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner
- 21 11 am Easter Egg Hunt
- 22 11:30am AED training, 1.5 hours with John Blau, Chardon Fire Dept.
- 29



Today is Palm Sunday which marks Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is also the beginning of Holy Week.

Each Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

Each Wednesday:

Bible Study & Book Discussion 1:00 pm
Choir Practice 5:30 pm
Bell Choir 6:30 pm

Each Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm

“Marching Forward”

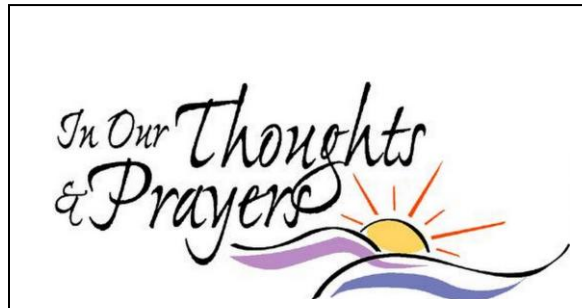
This month of March is marching right on into our lives with or without our permission. Can you believe how time flies, life changes and we don't have much control over it all. The only control is in how we choose to march. Do we go forward, sideways, backwards, not at all or a combination of them all depending upon the way we feel in the moment?

Truthfully, most of us look into the month of March with hope for the cold of winter to break into the sunny warmth of spring. I can remember as a girl growing up in the Deep South, that March meant warmer weather and I couldn't wait to get into my shorts and sandals. Then, as I got older, I realized as we moved North, the same meaning for the month of March did not carry the same meaning for me. My marching steps changed into boots and warmth as I lamented the realization I was being thrust back into the throes of cold winter. I was marching backwards much to my dismay and I had no control over it.

Have you ever felt this way in your life? Maybe not with the weather and the month of March, but maybe with something else you had become accustomed to that you enjoyed and then circumstances changed and you were forced to make concessions? Like maybe you really liked a certain store that went out of business forcing you to take your patronage elsewhere? Or maybe you loved this certain restaurant with a particular waitstaff and then they had a change over in personnel? It can be anything. How well did you shift in making the march forward? Do you lament the situation? Did you grumble around before you found the walk of acceptance? None of this is wrong. Just like it is a process for an infant to learn how to walk, so it is a process for us all to learn how to find our gait and step in life. Practicing the disciples in the teachings of Christ is the best instruction any of us can ask for to find our lucky four leaf clovers we all desire from the Irish images of March's St. Patty's Day celebrations. The pot of gold we desire at the end of the rainbow comes in the perception and perspective of light refractions we see when we are seeking God's promise and hope after the rainstorm we have just weathered. It is in Jesus where we find the help and guidance for the lessons we each have to learn and to accept.

As we all know, our faith is more stable and in-depth than putting our luck into finding a four leafed clover. In Christ we are taught how to march in life with acceptance and love for the quality of healthy properties we each desire within us and out into this world we are a part of. In this spirit of living may we each contemplate God's timing versus our own impositions of expectations. After all, the weather will get warmer, in God's timing not our own. Technology will continue to change and advance with or without us. The need to learn how to walk in life with a strong balanced gait is still needed and warranted. How it is and in which manner we choose to go is the invitation Jesus issues to us. He invites us to go with him into the future as a present active participant accepting and embracing the love of God through us with one another. Won't we choose to walk this March to the Cross with understanding and hope for the warming of our hearts in the saving grace of God? The choice is our and the welcome is extended. In Christ we follow.

Blessings,
Your Pastor Julie ☺☺



PRAYER LIST

Doris Wilson
Bree Ellis Banks
June Webb Hunt
Joyce Vargo
Dale Baptie
Rick Juhasz
Wayne Streble
Kelly Wagner
Ed Ward
Joe Berninger
Lee McCurry
Scott Pricer
Sandra Trotten
Don and Marilyn Hornak
Karen Baptie

August Speziale
Sharon Hunter
Beth Christian Sharp
Kevin Playman
Denny Bihary
Thomas Woods
Rheta Crowley
Gary Branstein
Jeffery Przybysz
Ben Armstrong
Kevin Reed
Sara Mellott
Ellen Bonner
Ted Ogle

AWARDS

We have 3 applications and are waiting on the return of 1 requested application. Now is the time to encourage someone to submit their application by email at Awards.ccc@gmail.com by **March 23rd**. Applications can be requested at Awards.ccc@gmail.com or applications are on the table in the entrance gathering space. The Awards Committee will give preference to applicants from our church for the 6 available Awards.

Our congregation is invited to the Awards Presentation on **May 3, 2026** during our Church Service and the brief Reception immediately following. All Awardees (winners) need to be present during the Service and Reception to receive their Award.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School classes are happening each week. We look forward to doing some special activities with both classes combined on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 21 at 11am.

DEACONS

As the month of February comes to a close the Board of Deacons continue to prepare and plan services throughout the Lenten season. We will be ordering palms for Palm Sunday and implementing final decisions for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday service. Deacons will be hosting coffee hour for the month of March and we look forward to fellowshiping with you all during that time. The next Deacon meeting will be held March 8th at 11:30. As always we ask that anyone interested in reading scripture or praying for our church please sign up. The clipboard is on the table in the foyer of the church. The Deacon of the month name can also be found on the sign up sheet if there are any questions or needs. We would like to extend our thank you to Linda Angstrom for her years of service as our Lead Deacon. She did a wonderful job and we will miss having her on the board. We also want to welcome our new Board of Deacon member Dennis Kellogg and thank our ongoing Deacons for continuing to serve.

Please have Easter flowers to the church by Sat April 4th.

Respectfully,
Becky Soltis Lead Deacon 2026

MISSIONS

For March our mission is One Great Hour of Sharing, a vital special mission of the United Church of Christ which supports disaster relief, refugee assistance and development efforts around the world. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

You may donate by writing OGHS on the memo line of your check or enclose your gift in an envelop marked OGHS.

Thank you to everyone for your on-going support for the Burton Food Pantry. Our souper bowl collection was very successful. We will be collecting facial tissues (like Kleenex) during the month of March. Cold and flu season is still with us, and they are unable to receive tissues from the Cleveland Food Bank at this time.

TRUSTEES

Hood cleaning was done February 25.

AED training, March 22 at 11:30 am, 1.5 hour training by John Blau, Chardon Fire Dept.



LANTERN FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S RETREAT
A CONFERENCE-WIDE WOMEN'S RETREAT – ALL ARE WELCOME!

**The Sound of the Future: Making Space For the
Wisdom of Young Leaders**

April 17-19, 2026

Featuring
Rev. Allen V. Harris
Regional Minister for
the Christian Church Ohio
(Disciples of Christ)

Camp Christian:
10299 Maple Dell Rd.
Marysville, OH
43040

Click Here to Register by April 1!

The poster features a central image of a red lantern with a glass chimney, set against a circular background with a landscape scene. The background of the entire poster shows a group of women from behind, hugging each other in a line, looking out over a scenic landscape under a bright sky.

[Lantern Fellowship Brochure](#)

LIVING WATER ASSOCIATION

Living Water Association Annual Report (see separate attachment with the newsletter).