

Pastor's Newsletter Article for March 2021

Grace and peace to my sisters and brothers at FELC!

“In the bleak midwinter”...my, what a winter we're having. Covid keeping us in. Winter keeping us in. Afraid of falling. Afraid of sickness. Is there any good news that I can give you??

Well, the month of March is the season of Lent. Is that good news? Isn't Lent all about confessing our sins and realizing how unworthy we are? Is that good news? Well, to my way of thinking, it's really a season of healing!

Healing? How can that be? Actually, it begins with an analogy. I'm told many people suffer from Covid-19 without ever knowing it. Following that line of thinking, could we be sinning without ever knowing it?

Frankly, that's the wrong question. That we sin is a given, whether we realize it or not. What's special about Lent is that we learn again to lean on our Lord for help, knowing we can't do anything about it all by ourselves.

Lent is 40 days long, also known as a quarantine, and a quarantine is a time to heal and gain back our strength. Lent is a quarantine time to learn again how beautiful is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to learn again the joy of leaning on Jesus, resting in His arms, trusting His overwhelming desire to forgive us.

In the midst of winter weather, slippery roads and cautious driving, we are greeted this Lent by our Lord; renewed, refreshed and prepared for the joy of His resurrection on Easter morning.

Someone recently asked me about driving from Wooster to Mansfield every day. 73 miles, one and one half hours each day. Why do I do this? First of all, because I love my Savior! Secondly, because I love all of you. For this reason, I invite all of you to love our Savior and each other this Lent, coming to our midweek soup and Bible study and our Sunday services as you are able. **Come for the healing of forgiveness, preparing for joy!**

Blessings,

Pr Tim+