

Dear Chapelites,

We look forward to spring - Ash Wednesday - Sunday Schedule

“Spring begins in 33 days,” proclaims today’s “The Old Farmer’s Almanac”. In the midst of the longest cold snap of the year someone observed that Ash Wednesday means six weeks until Easter and that Easter means spring. He added that all this cold and snow will soon be gone. Things will begin to green up, and we will enjoy warmer days.



Lent is a season of spiritual preparation for Easter. It lasts for forty days not including Sundays. The word “Lent” is derived from “lencten”—the Old English word for spring. The word is related to the lengthening of days.

We look forward to spring. Even those of us who enjoy snow and winter are ready for the cold days to end. We want to exchange our heavy winter clothes for something lighter and more comfortable. We look forward to flowers blooming, trees budding, birds singing, and nature awakening. We anticipate spring sports and outdoor activities. We can hardly wait to plant seeds and to watch crops and gardens grow. “The heavens declare the glory of God.” (Psalm 19:1) Nature has spoken God’s glory all fall and winter, but we want to hear the spring voice of creation sing praise to God. We look forward to spring. It cannot come soon enough.

Metaphorically, our country has been stuck in a long, dark winter. We want to be done with Covid. We are weary of mask-wearing and social-distancing. We want to laugh and joke, shake hands, hug, and hang out with people. We don’t want to fear possible infection in every encounter. We are frustrated by the violence in our nation. The causes last summer and this winter were vastly different, but the end result was property damage, bodily injury, loss of life, division, and distrust. The election that seemed like it could not end soon enough now seems like it has yet to end. We want to hang out with people, but we worry that every conversation can erupt into strong feelings related to this political and societal divide. We pray that “people will humble themselves and pray and seek [God’s] face and turn from their wicked ways, then [God] will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:12) We pray for revival to sweep our nation. We look forward to metaphorical spring. It cannot come soon enough.

There is also a spiritual winter caused by (small “s”) sin. We know that these sins disrupt all our relationships with our families and our peers. Sadly, sin fractures our relationship with God, but through his sacrificial death, Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sins. We are invited to return to God, and by faith we can receive grace to be born again. The new birth brings a partial thawing from this spiritual winter. We are still beset by (capital “S”) Sin—our carnal nature with its propensity to sin. The Good News is that through his resurrection, Jesus Christ has won victory over Sin and by faith through his Holy Spirit we receive his sanctifying grace. “He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free.” (Charles Wesley--“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”) “This is the will of God, your sanctification.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3) We look forward to spiritual spring. It cannot come soon enough.

Meteorological spring will have fits and starts, but with the certainty of God who planned the seasons, it will come. With less certainty, we hope metaphorical spring will come as common

people with common sense follow leaders who seek the common good. The preparation for spiritual spring has already been done. Will you open your heart to the salvation and sanctification that Jesus Christ offers?

Pray for one another. Pray for healing for those who are ill or hurting. Pray for this virus to end.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Brad

Ash Wednesday - February 17 - 7:00 - 7:30

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in conjunction with Wednesday Night Ministries again this year. We have packets of ashes for each family or individual so ashes can be imposed safely. This service will be both thoughtful and kid friendly.

The service will begin at 7:00 and last for half an hour. Children will come to their classes at 6:30 and then go to the sanctuary for the service. Youth will come early at 7:00 and stay for their meeting afterwards. Adults and families will come at 7:00. Plan to attend.

The service will be live streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LibertyChapelLC> Watch it live or later. Be prepared for communion. You can also create ashes for your symbol of penance.

The only certainty for Wednesday's weather is that it will be a mess. Stay tuned for whether or not we can hold the Ash Wednesday service. Make wise and prudent decisions for you and your family about all church activities during inclement weather.

Last Sunday

Message: "Mountain-Top Moments" - Matthew 7:1-11 - Pastor Phil preached - YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0V1SMj511U>

Next Sunday

Message: "Living into the Vision" - "The Narrow Gate" - Matthew 7:13-14
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/LibertyChapelLC>

Sunday Schedule

Option 1: Drive-in/Outside Worship. (8:15 am) - Come to the parking lot, and tune to FM 90.5.

Option 2: Inside Worship. (10:30 am) - Please observe physically distant seating and wear face coverings.

Option 3: Worship online. The service is live streamed at 10:30 am. You can watch it live or later. Liberty Chapel's YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/c/libertychapelc>

Sunday School. (9:15)

- February 15, 2021