



# The KEY MARCH 2026

**Lutheran & Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula**  
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran, Wiarton & The Anglican Parish of the Bruce Peninsula  
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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



### Disciples like Fungi ☺

The season of Lent is often approached as a season of deep penitence/repentance and surrender. People will often give things up (social media, chocolate, coffee) as a symbolic sacrifice and/or intentional discipline - representative of the desire to be disciples of Jesus, or people who follow in the disciplines Jesus taught and recommended.

This Lent, I wanted to focus our attention differently on Lent through a series of images ...

First, Lent as a season of lengthening<sup>1</sup>. Lent – the 40-day season in the church year leading up to Easter Sunday – is a time for Christians to focus on practices and intentions that return our attention to God and God's action in our lives and the world. The word "Lent" comes from an Old English word meaning "springtime," and shares the same root as the word "lengthen." So how might we lengthen our attentions to God and God's action in our lives and in the world? There are many ways and I am sure we all have a handful that are our go-to's ... being in nature, joining in worship, quiet time, Bible Study, journaling, prayer ... so many ways.

The first image I offer to you, to go with this idea of lengthening towards God, is the image of a seed in the ground, barely sprouted, that begins to lengthen and grow under the sunlight of God's grace. Think about what you need to experience that lengthening. Ash Wednesday offers an opportunity to set your intentions and work towards those practices during the season of Lent.

The second image I want to offer is one that we often encounter in the spring and fall ... the image of mushrooms. They pop up when the temperatures are right and often right after a rainfall, when the forest floor is moist. At Bishop Carla's Clergy retreat in February, I learnt about mushrooms and had not realized that the spore-producing bodies we see pop up when conditions are right are just the reproductive organs of mycelium – a decentralized weblike body of branching tubes that can span great distances and live for millenia (kinda like the human species!)

Fungi (the "flowering part of which is the mushroom") are a deeply interconnected and communicative life form (again kinda like we can be, on a good day). The mycelia move by extending their tubes through substrate like soil or fallen trees / logs, constantly sensing,

Follow The Spirit



<sup>1</sup> an idea I read in a reflection from my colleague, Pastor Laura Sauder, in the Lamp Lighter (newsletter of St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Preston, Cambridge – my first call congregation).

learning and making decisions – they speak and understand a wide range of chemical signals. They release and respond to chemicals that float through the air, and flow through water.<sup>2</sup> (kinda like the Holy Spirit is understood to operate?)

Their responses support growth and flourishing not only of other Fungi, but the entire forest. So I invite you to consider that image and what it may offer to you ... under the forest floor, this vast network of mycelia, often not yet visible as mushrooms, supporting the growth and flourishing of the entire forest.

How can you be like that mycelia? Perhaps not by being a vibrantly coloured and visible mushroom above ground, but by being part of that underground network that conveys life?

Gospel life?

Good news life in a bad news world?

On Ash Wednesday, we have the option to receive imposition of ashes, and within our traditions we usually say some words along the lines of “remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” – there is a suggestion within these words of our organic and passing nature. But death and even decay are not, in and of themselves end points. Death and decay are actually required stages in the production of food for new life ... and here again, mushrooms, or more specifically, fungi have an image to offer.

For they play a crucial role in ecosystems by breaking down dead organic matter like wood and leaves to allow for nutrient recycling. They serve as ecological cleaners as they have a capacity to degrade complex organic compounds and environmental pollutants, such as oil and heavy metals. They can take toxic things and make them harmless. (kinda like God, Son and Holy Spirit can).

We live in a world where there is an awful lot of dead and toxic all around us. And I believe we are called to be extant ... to exist and remain in existence in the midst of toxicity, death and even decay ... we are meant to focus our attentions as Jesus says in the Matthew text on that which is not subject to extinction by chemical or insect consumption (rust or moths).

A popular mushroom meme claims “mushrooms are extant” – they exist, have existed and will continue to exist, being agents of the conversion of death to nourishment, of toxicity to nutrients. Kinda like that light that cannot, has not, and will not be overcome by darkness (from the Gospel of John 1).

So this Lent, I invite you into these images:

- of lengthening towards God,
- of being interconnected, even invisibly – providing nourishment for a world in such need.
- and of being agents of conversion – bridges as Jesus was, from death into life.

Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/04/24/1071363/fungi-fungus-communication-explainer/> MIT article on Fungi and their functions.

## **Reading the Bible in March**

A few parishioners and friends are reading the Bible together this year. We have been using the reading schedule as set out in the Message Translation "Reading the Bible in One Year", and the reading schedule for each week is published on

janakibandara.substack.com

or you can access the same information from

laamb.ca (in the Pastor's Corner).

If you would like to join us in reading even a segment of the Bible together, we will begin reading these books on these days in March:

The Book of Numbers – we begin reading this third book in the Old Testament on March 3, 2026.

The Gospel of Mark – we begin reading this gospel on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The Book of Deuteronomy – we begin reading this fourth book in the Old Testament on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We meet every two to three weeks to discuss our experiences of the reading process, what stood out for us, and have some fellowship time on zoom. Please consider joining us ☺

Peace & blessings  
Janaki



Janaki Bandara – LAAMB and Christ Church pastor  
email: [janakibandara@diohuron.org](mailto:janakibandara@diohuron.org) and texting / voicemail  
if you don't get me in person, available at 519-588-7701

# MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Year A

### 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2026 (V)

GENESIS 12:1-4A/PSALM 121

ROMANS 4:/1-5, 13-17/JOHN3:1-17

9:30 St. Peter's/Trinity (Pastor Janaki)

11:30 Christ Church (Pastor Janaki)

2:00 St. Edmund's (Pastor Janaki) at TUC

### 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2026 (V)

EXODUS 17:1-7/PSALM 95

ROMANS 5:1-11/JOHN4:5-42

9:30 St. Peter's & Trinity (Pastor Janaki)

11:30 Christ Church (Pastor Janaki)

2:00 St. Edmund's, (Pastor Janaki) at TUC

### 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2026 (V)

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13/PSALM 23

EPHESIANS 5:8-14/JOHN 9:1-41

9:30 St. Peter's/Trinity (Pastor Janaki)

11:30 Christ Church (Pastor Janaki)

2:00 St. Edmund's, Pastor Janaki) at TUC

### 5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Lent March 22, 2026 (V)

EZEKIEL 37:1-14/PSALM 130

ROMANS 8:6-11/JOHN11:1-45

9:30 St. Peter's/Trinity (Pastor Janaki)

11:30 Christ Church (Pastor Janaki)

2:00 St. Edmund's (Pastor Janaki) at TUC

### Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 (R)

Isaiah 50:4-9a/Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Philippians2:/5-11/Matthew 21:1-11

11:30 Christ Church (Pastor Janaki)

2:00 St. Edmund's (Pastor Janaki) at TUC

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## Sponsorship Opportunities

The KEY may be sponsored for \$60.00  
An individual congregational bulletin may be sponsored for \$30.00

*If you wish to make these donations, please speak with Satomi in the Parish Office.*

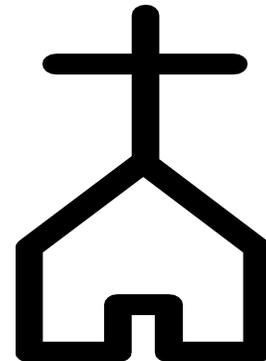
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## LUTHERAN & ANGLICAN MINISTRIES OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA

Together in faith,  
loving and serving God  
by helping others.

We pledge to:

- be led by Holy Spirit
- embrace differences
- adapt to changing times



*MISSION STATEMENT,  
adopted by PPC, November 14, 2018*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR MARCH EVENTS

## NEXT AVGEN ORDER



Orders Collected  
Last Sunday of March the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Cheques must be made payable to Christ  
Church  
In the memo line record 'Avgen in trust'

## Mid-Peninsula Ecumenical Group Lent Pot Luck 'Tea'

United Church, Lion's Head  
'All are welcome'



Join us for  
A Reflection, Reading & Hymn Sing  
From 2:00 to 3:30  
Tuesdays,  
March 10<sup>th</sup> ,17<sup>th</sup> , & 24<sup>th</sup>

**World Day of Prayer**  
**Friday March 6th**  
**Frank Street Baptist Church**  
**1:00 pm**



## WIARTON W.I.G. ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH Lenten Lunches MENU

### Variety of Soups and Sandwiches Followed by

A Reflection, Reading & Hymn Sing  
Planned For

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**  
**MARCH**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> 11<sup>TH</sup> 18<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>**

St. Peter's & Trinity will be working with Frank  
Street Baptist to provide the lunch for Wednesday  
March 11<sup>th</sup>



## Wiarion Women's Group Next Meeting

**Wednesday March 18th at 1:30**

The Women's Group decided at their February meeting to once again contact the Kidney Foundation of Canada to have them pick up our contributions at the Church. The spring date has not been set yet, but last year they picked up donations in early May. So, we have plenty of time to fill our bags with clothing, shoes, purses, outerwear, bedding, drapery and fabrics, jewelry and belts. Thank you for your help in this endeavour.



Shirley Dimoff

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# Lent Book Study on Zoom

## Starting February 26<sup>th</sup>

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### A Book Study for LENT 2025:

**LENT** is just around the corner! By the time you read and inwardly digest this, you will want to order your book for our 2025 LENT Book Study.

The study of Skye Jethani's book "*WITH: Reimagining the Way you Relate to God*" will be offered during Lent on Zoom. There is no need to sign up in advance. The Zoom link will be shared with worship notices beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

We will do this study on Thursdays at 7pm by ZOOM as follows:

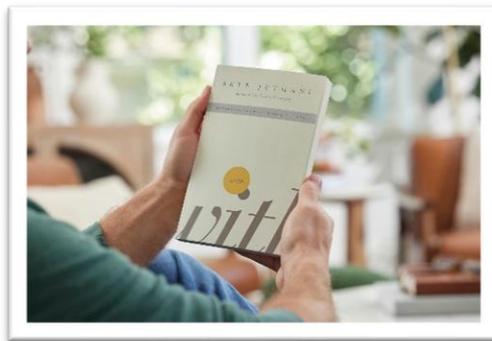
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| Thursday February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 7 pm | – study questions from Appendix B for Chapters 1 & 2.  |
| Thursday March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 pm     | – study questions from Appendix B for Chapters 3 & 4.  |
| Thursday March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 7 pm    | – study questions from Appendix B for Chapters 5 & 6.  |
| Thursday March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 7 pm    | – study questions from Appendix B for Chapters 7 & 8   |
| Thursday March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 7 pm    | – study questions from Appendix B for Chapter 9 and as time permits, discussion from Appendix A. |

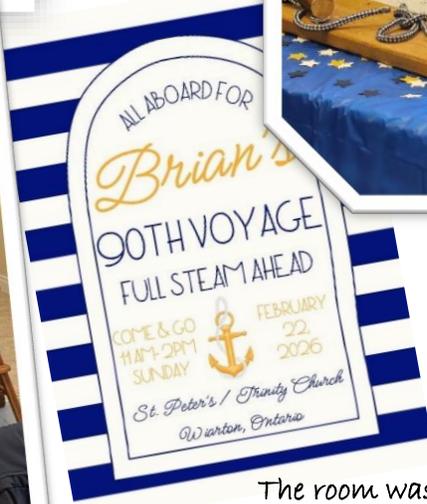
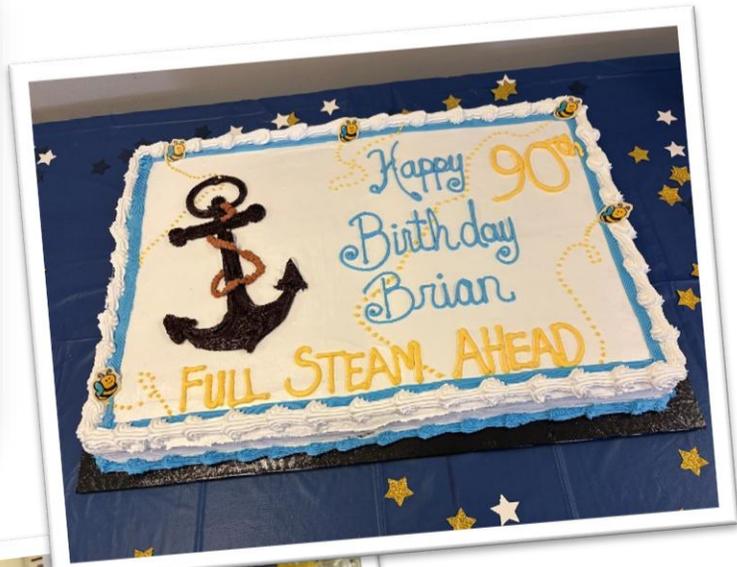
This book is available from Amazon.ca (\$24.99 + tax and shipping). If you would like a copy ordered from the church office, please call Satomi at the LAAMB office and leave a voicemail.

There is no need to sign up in advance. The Zoom link will be shared with worship notices beginning on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

The first session February 26<sup>th</sup> study segment covers approximately 40 pages of reading.

Pastor Janaki





The room was filled with a lot of love, laughter, friendship and good food! Making the day even more amazing Brian received a video call from his cousin Sarah in Ireland

Congratulations Brian!

## **A Reflection for Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent**

Ash Wednesday invites us to pause and change direction—to turn from the habits and patterns that pull us away from God and to turn toward the One who leads us into life.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), reminding us that the path back to God is not a mystery to solve but a relationship to enter.

Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we discover forgiveness, renewal, and the promise of eternal life.

In our churches, we receive the sign of the cross in ashes—ashes that speak honestly about our mortality and our need for repentance, and a cross that proclaims Christ’s victory over sin and death. As the ashes touch our foreheads, we remember not only our human frailty but also the mark of our baptism, when we were claimed as God’s own and sealed with the promise of redemption.

Lent, with its solemn purple tones and its quieting of alleluias, is a season shaped by reflection and return. Its forty days echo Jesus’ time in the wilderness—days of fasting, prayer, and temptation. In His steadfastness, we see both our own need for grace and the strength He offers us in every trial.

The Church has long spoken of three pillars that guide us through this season: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices are not burdens but gifts—ways of clearing space in our lives so that God’s transforming love can take root. Lent becomes a time to notice what is un-Christ-like within us and to invite God to reshape our hearts.

And for all our questions—Why ashes? Why forty days? Why purple?—the answer always circles back to Christ. We observe Lent to remember the depth of God’s love shown on the cross, to prepare ourselves to receive again the joy of Easter, and to walk more closely with the One who became sin for our sake so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Lent leads us, step by step, toward the hope of resurrection. It is a journey of honesty, humility, and grace—a journey that begins with ashes but ends in the radiant light of Easter morning.

Charlotte Ewbank, Editor  
And Reader





# SUNDAY HUMOUR



“Our mouths were filled with laughter”

Psalm 126:2

Paraprosdokians  
(What?)

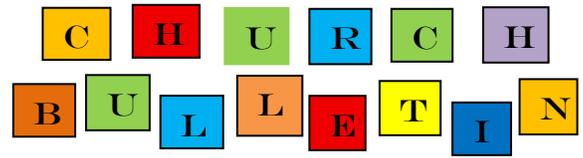
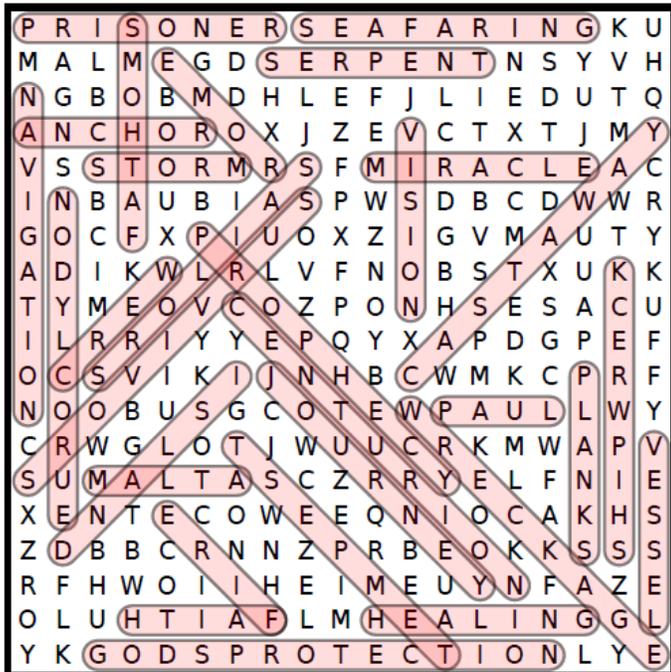


Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit . . .  
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Paraprosdokians written by  
Unknown



## Answer February Word Search



## BLUNDERS!

Don't let worry kill you off  
Let the church help!



## Biblical Anagrams

February Answer:

Your faith has made you well

Luke 18:42b

New Anagram for March

alone heron vote



starts with:

.....l.....

.....

Hint: verse is in Romans

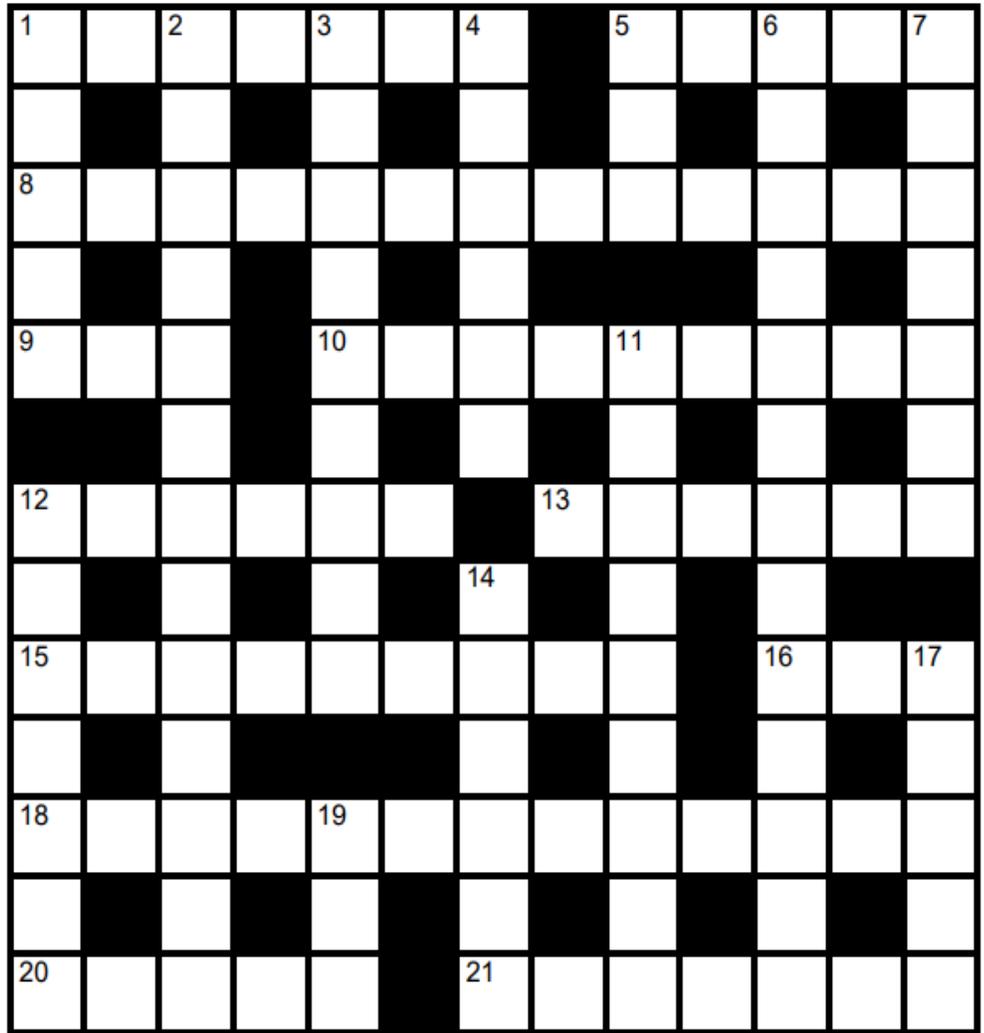
## MARCH QUICK BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 Fruit farm (7)
- 5 Extinguish, as a candle (5)
- 8 Sacrifice that required a ram and money payment (5,8)
- 9 Land to which Cain fled (3)
- 10 Someone who provides consolation (9)
- 12 Disciples present at the Ascension (6)
- 13 Produce of 1 across? (6)
- 15 Something to beat your sword into (9)
- 16 Biblical prefix meaning "man of" (3)
- 18 Morality (13)
- 20 Reddish (5)
- 21 Extend over (7)

### Down

- 1 Accompaniment for a hymn? (5)
- 2 Through Jesus we can become this (8,2,3)



by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.com

3 Assailants (9)

4 Discredit (6)

5 Have a vision (3)

6 Not clever (13)

7 Sculptures (7)

11 Unfair or cruel leader (9)

12 Tiberius or Claudius for example (7)

14 Stoneworkers (6)

17 Levitical doorkeeper (5)

19 Your, in the Bible (3)



