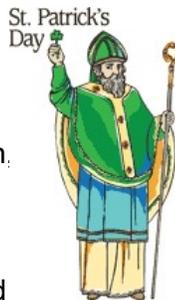


March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

It's interesting that so many of the "holidays" on our calendar have as saints as their origins. Last month we celebrated St. Valentine with hearts, flowers, and candy. This month we commemorate St. Patrick with parades and green beer.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but he wasn't born there. He lived in the 5th century and was born in Roman Britain. When he was sixteen, he was captured by Irish raiders and was sent to Ireland as a slave. He eventually became a shepherd. He grew close to his Christian faith during these difficult years and went on to spread Christianity to the Irish through baptism and confirmation, which was what earned him his status as a saint after his death.



There are a couple of traditions that have sprung up about St. Patrick. Hundreds of years after his death, several legends became popularized, such as the story of his driving snakes from Ireland. But apparently the explanation for there being no snakes in Ireland is simply that there have never been snakes in Ireland.

Ireland wasn't always associated with the color green. It was once aligned with the color blue until the Great Irish Rebellion of 1641 when green was used as the color of the flag. Over the years, green became a national symbol of pride for Ireland. Wearing of green clothing became common in the U.S. at St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations in the 1800's to avoid getting pinched by leprechauns. These little folks were popular in Irish fables and they wore red instead of green. Additionally, shamrocks are popular items to depict St. Patrick's Day because Patrick used them to explain the trinity.

Patrick died on March 17, 461AD, which later became a feast day on the occasion of his beatification as a saint. Unlike other saints in

history, it is recorded that he died peacefully of old age in Ireland, and is buried there. His feast day is celebrated all over the world, including Japan, Norway, the West Indies, Canada and New Zealand, among others.

Patrick is another example of small acts of faith reaping a vast harvest. His zeal for testifying about his Christian faith spread throughout Ireland and the world, as Irish folks immigrated to various other lands. Patrick planted the seeds and those to whom he ministered spread them far and wide.

We should take Patrick as our example of spreading the love and teachings of Christ to all we encounter, planting the seeds and trusting God to spread them for the harvest.

Pastor Kathy



Mar 1
Scripture Luke :1, 7-14
Sermon Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
Elder of the Day Stuart Tolson

Mar 8. **Daylight Savings**
Scripture Luke 14: 25-33
Sermon Carrying Jesus' Cross
Elder of the Day James Allen

Mar 15
Scripture Luke 16: 1-13
Sermon Risky Business
Elder of the Day James Allen

Mar 22
Scripture John 11:1-45
Sermon In the Here and Now
Elder of the Day James Allen

Mar 29. **Palm Sunday**
Scripture Matthew 21: 1-11
Sermon Making Good Trouble
Elder of the Day. Lori Hamburger

MARCH 8
Don't Forget to



March 15
Join
Muffin Madness
after service



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Pawhuska, OK 74056
918-287-4040



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March 6 Shannon Helmer Lawrence
 March 11 Matthew Klassy
 Youth birthdays:
 March 23. Lane McCullough

Kelly Bloomfield
 Randa Bloomfield
 Linda Priest

Matt and Susan Free
 March 15, 1982

Sail Away, Sail Away!

This January 24-February 1, It was cruise time for Steve and Sheila Tolson, who joined our Steve and Ann Teget (Post Card Jar) to travel to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaca. They traveled on the Celebrity Line on the Silhouette.



In Sheila's words:

We enjoyed it very much! The Tegets make traveling extremely easy. They hosted 3 excursions for their Postcard Jar group. Bonaire was a snorkeling excursion. The most colorful fish and turtles. Absolute blast. Aruba was an island tour. Toured an Aloe factory (Aruba is a desert) and I contributed to the local economy, hiked to beautiful overlooks, saw a light house (Steve climbed to the top), explored gold mine ruins, and cooled off in the ocean. Our group had a fabulous mixology class with tasting 3 traditional cocktails. Curacua was another tour of the island. Went to their distillery where they make Curacua liquor. Saw the colorful homes and business of the island and visited another beach.



Tolsons



Tolsons



Tegets

The ship had plenty of activities onboard and we all ate until we ouchted! (Sheila)

Tegets



There were 92 people on the cruise with Post Card Jar. Ann sent this picture of the Oklahoma Group



Tolsons

We had the absolute best time together. (Ann)

THANKS FOR SHARING!!





Bible Nuggets



Sometime ago, perhaps the seventies to the best of my remembering, I became aware of **Zola Levitt Ministries**. Zola was a Jew, born and raised in the Hebrew faith, who, as an adult, came to know Jesus (Yeshua) as the Messiah. He was baptized in the Jordan River and his life became devoted to teaching so that his Jewish brothers and sisters could come to the knowledge of Yeshua as Messiah. He wanted Gentiles to understand the connections of the Old Testament and New Testament and also know how to speak with a Jew and share Messiah. I learned a lot in reading these simple direct and very readable booklets. It adds to understanding analogies, parables, and connections to things we read in the New Testament.

Zola passed away, but his ministry still lives on through others. My first encounter with his teaching materials was in a gift of a 33 page booklet called **"A Christian Love Story."** I want to share and have tried to go through the first eight pages and pull out some main ideas. Watch how the wedding ceremony in Jesus' time parallels what we know of Jesus as the Bridegroom

A Jewish Wedding Ceremony pictures the Bride of Christ.

1 Jews had no dating or courtship as we know now. Marriage was a practical legal matter. It was established by contract though procedure.

2. When a young man of Israel in Jesus's time saw the girl he wanted to marry, or the girl his father said he wanted to marry, the young man would approach the girl with a marriage contract. **He would come to her house with a covenant, a legal agreement. It would give the terms by which he would propose marriage, and the most important part was the price that the bridegroom would be willing to pay to marry this bride.**

3. The bridegroom would present himself to the bride with the agreement, offering to pay a suitable price for her. She and her father would discuss it. If the terms were suitable, the bride and groom would drink a cup of wine together and with this seal the bargain. **The cup was significant as it showed the bridegroom's willingness to sacrifice in order to have his bride. It was offered as a toast to the bride and also showed the bride's willingness to enter into the marriage.**



4. **Then the groom would pay the price.** The price was not a modest token, but was set so that the new bride would be a costly item. **He would pay dearly to marry the girl of his choice.**

When the matter was settled, the groom would make a little speech to his bride, saying **"I go to prepare a place for you."** Then he would return to his father's house.

5. **Back at the father's house, he would build a bridal chamber, or little mansion, in which they would have their future honeymoon.** It might be a separate building on the father's property, or a room in the father's house. It had to be beautiful and stocked with provisions as they would be remaining inside for seven days. It would take the better part of a year to complete the work. The father of the

groom was the one who decided when it was finished and time to go get the bride.

6 **The bride was obliged to do a lot of waiting. During this time, she was referred to as "consecrated", "Set apart," "bought with a price."** Custom proved that she would gather her trousseau and be ready when the bridegroom came. **She was to have an oil lamp ready** in case he came late at night in the darkness. She needed to be ready to go at all times.

During the time of waiting, the bride would assemble sisters and bridesmaids and they would stay each night at the house in case the bridegroom would come.

When the bride went out in public, she would wear a veil to show that she was spoken for, so no others would approach her with a contract.

7 Meanwhile the bridegroom worked away preparing the place. **When asked when he was going to go get the bride, his response would be "Only my father knows that."**

8. When the time arrived, **it was time to surprise the bride.** The groom and his wedding party would head to her house. Someone in the party would shout, so that she could hear and be ready. Everyone would get their lamps lit. You couldn't walk through the rocky terrain without a lamp.

The groom and his men would rush in, grab the girls, and make off with them while the father and brothers "looked the other way."



9. When the bride and groom reached the father's house, the bride and groom would go into their chamber and shut the door. No one else would enter.

The groom's father would assemble the wedding guests, and they would be ready to celebrate the new marriage. Celebrating had to wait until the marriage was consummated.

The Jewish law provided that the bride and groom had to become one before their marriage was recognized. So, an individual (we might say 'best' man) would stand outside the bridal chamber and wait until the bridegroom would call out that the marriage had been consummated.

The friend would go tell the wedding guests and announce the good news, and the celebration would begin and last for an entire week.

10. At the end of the week, the bride and groom would make their appearance to the cheers of the crowd, There would be a joyous meal, the marriage supper, to honor the new couple.

11. After the marriage supper, the bride and groom would depart and go to their own house, which had been prepared by the groom.

Zola suggests that The Bride of Christ will spend seven years at the home of the groom's father, and then will return with the Bridegroom to occupy the Kingdom He has prepared for us.

(The Bride of Christ is the Church. The Church is those who believe in Jesus as Messiah)

During this time of Lent, as we reflect on our lives and on the sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus, the Christ, this beautiful picture painted in the wedding ceremony of Jesus's time, might speak to us plainly.

God paints so many pictures in His Scripture of His love for us. Our time with the Lord is both individual and communal. Now, when we come as a community to join together in receiving Communion, I can easily visualize this as both remembering, and as drinking the cup with our Bridegroom, symbolizing the price He is willing and did pay for us, and our willingness to accept this covenant contract to be His Bride. We ponder Him as we wait, we think on all He has done and what He is doing in preparing a place for us. He has promised to come again and receive us unto Himself, that where He is, we also will be. John 14: 3-9



Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.

LUKE 12:35, NRSV

As we wait, we prepare. It is important to always have our oil (Holy Spirit) in our lamps. Remember, that we are set apart, consecrated, bought with a price. He has paid dearly for us, and He will come. for us.

The booklet which I have borrowed heavily from, uses the first eight pages to explain the steps in the marriage ceremony. The rest of the booklet is dedicated to taking the elements of this ceremony and showing the beautiful analogies in the New Testament as the Lord calls out His Chosen Bride, The Church.

Note: I checked to find the best place to purchase a paper copy of the booklet. Going to <https://store.levitt.com> you can purchase a paper copy for \$4.00.

If you are a Kindle person, you can get an ebook on Amazon for \$1.99. Apple Books also carry the ebook version for the same amount.

I do not receive any kind of reimbursemen if you purchase. 😊 I'm just enthusiastic for the books.

Carolyn Johnson

