

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
March 2012



Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship & Communion, 1st Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

30 Main Street, P.O. Box 392, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068 ~ 860.435.2442 ~ www.salisburycongregational.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED JANUARY 29TH AND FEBRUARY 5TH

Each new member was introduced by his or her sponsor before they and the congregation affirmed their covenantal relationship in the *Order of Reception for New Members.*

On **March 25th** we will again welcome new members into our church family. If you are interested in becoming a member and might like to take part in this service, please contact Pastor Diane.

(There is a link to a small gallery of photos of the two welcoming services on the home page of our website. You can also watch much of the February 5th service on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/3FrJ5ipnFig>.)



From worlddayofprayer.net

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER All are Invited!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be marked on **Friday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Cornwall Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, CT.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is a world-wide ecumenical group of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

The women of Malaysia have prepared the service this year with the theme **Let Justice Prevail**. It takes courage, compassion and active engagement for justice to

prevail. They ask us all to work with God and with each other to create a world in which each gender, race, culture and religion is honored, nurtured and empowered.

Please join us in this World-Wide Day of Prayer.

Ruth Tyrol

What's Inside....

Pastor's Letter.....	2
Mission Trip 2012	2
"This I Believe".....	2
OGHS.....	3
Church Services on TV	3
Recycling at Church	3
"Easter People".....	4
Lenten Book Study	4
"March in the Son"	4
Lenten Prayer.....	4
Palm Sunday to Remember	4
Letter from the Deacons	5
Strong & Vital Church	5
EMC Thanks	5
Calendar & Birthdays.....	6
Potluck Supper.....	6
St. Mary's Lenten Program	6
Kid's Korner.....	7
Giving Tree Thanks.....	7
Souper Bowl Report	7
Special Thanks	7



Growing in Faith Together



GET READY

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)

March is a transitional month. We move from winter to spring, if not in temperature, at least in light. The days are longer, the sun a bit brighter.

Given our crazy winter weather this year, we may even see flowers blooming in March!

Liturgically speaking, we are in Lent for the whole month of March. Lent is considered a time of darkness – a gloomy time when we reflect on our sins and seek ways to repent and ask forgiveness. Of course, it ends with the celebration of Christ's resurrection full of light and goodness at Easter, but still there is March.

Lent was historically the period of time that people spent preparing to join the church on Easter. It was a time of learning about faith, exploring one's beliefs and examining one's commitment to following Jesus and serving God. Over the years the practice of *giving something up* evolved, but originally it was all about preparing oneself for Easter.

I invite you to use the month of March to get ready, spiritually, for Easter. Adopt a discipline that will prepare your heart for the joy of the resurrection story. Spend some time, not just learning about your faith, but learning about yourself. Pay attention to the internal forces at work. Focus less on external events. Be still. Be quiet. Listen for God's voice in your life.

Scripture promises us new beginnings. Nature proves that the promise is kept. What new beginnings are you hoping for this season?

Heed the words of the prophet Isaiah and let go of some of the former things that are keeping you down. Look for the many ways the Holy Spirit is alive and working in your life. Be alert for things that may be bringing you new life and new perspectives.

I hope you will join me as we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem. Let's prepare our hearts to endure the passion story and to be disciples whose faith is strong and whose reward will be standing in the presence of the risen Christ on Easter morning.

Blessings of Grace & Peace

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -- Winston Churchill

"THIS I BELIEVE"

As a conclusion to Pastor Diane's sermon series on "What We Believe" you are invited to write your own essay. Following are the guidelines from the "This I Believe" website:

This I Believe Essay-Writing Guidelines

Tell a story: Be specific. Take your belief out of the ether and ground it in the events of your life. Consider moments when belief was formed or tested or changed. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut-wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be real. Make sure your story ties to the essence of your daily life philosophy and the shaping of your beliefs.

Be brief: Your statement should be between 350 and 500 words. That's about three minutes when read aloud at your natural pace.

Name your belief: If you can't name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about belief. Also, rather than writing a list, consider focusing on one core belief, because three minutes is a very short time.

Be positive: Please avoid preaching or editorializing. Tell us what you do believe, not what you don't believe. Avoid speaking in the editorial "we." Make your essay about you; speak in the first person.

Be personal: Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.

Once you have written your own Belief Statement, if you are willing to share it, pass it along to Pastor Diane (pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org). Perhaps we will compile our own Belief book sometime in the future.

WHAT PART WILL YOU PLAY IN THE MISSION TRIP?



Our church is planning a one-week trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, in July. Fifteen ambassadors from the congregation will work with *Simply Smiles* to enhance the lives of children living in poverty. Those going on the trip are called ambassadors, because they are representing the entire congregation. They will offer love and joy to the people of Oaxaca on your behalf. In the months leading up to the trip the congregation will be asked to participate in fund raising to help defray the costs of \$1,400 per person. You may be asked to buy some Yankee Candles, or to attend a spaghetti supper, or to donate your loose change, or to sponsor an ambassador. Please spend some time prayerfully considering how you might support our team. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Pastor Diane.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



This year the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be held on **Sunday, March 18th**. The OGHS offering provides support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency disaster relief initiatives in 138 countries, including the U.S., by working with local, national, and international partners. The members of the Christian Action Committee invite you to join us on March 18th for the One Great Hour Of Sharing Service, as we recap our work and share with you our initiatives for 2012.

The theme for 2012's One Great Hour of Sharing continues from last year's theme, "Sharing Brings Joy," but adds the focus of bringing joy to *others*."

Our first thoughts about how our gifts bring joy to others most likely focus on the tangible results of our sharing:

- a family displaced by natural disaster or political unrest is grateful to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives
- anyone who had to walk miles to get water for their family, smiles as a well is dug in their community, bringing clean water within reach
- a farmer whose harvest succumbed to the storms, is thankful when offered food, water, and new seed, helping her to make it through to the next harvest

Of course, when we "sow bountifully" by giving to others, we reap bountifully by sharing in the joy that our gifts bring to those whose basic needs are met.

But in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he reminds us of another way our giving brings joy to others. In encouraging the Corinthian church to give to the collection for the believers in Jerusalem, he reminds them that when the Jewish believers receive gifts from their non-Jewish sisters and brothers, they will be moved by the gifts themselves, and by the unity in Christ the gifts represent.

Knowing there are those who would share willingly with them, they are reminded of who they are: beloved children of the Creator, each one a person of sacred worth.

Across social and economic lines that should have separated them, followers of Christ reached out to support one another. The awareness of another's need allowed them to recognize their own abundance as a gift from God, one they were called to share.

This year, as you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, remember the joy your gifts offers others is hope. Sow bountifully and share abundantly, knowing that you are not only helping change the statistics, you are helping change lives.

Please give generously!

*Mindy Fitting for the Board of Christian Action
(and UCC Resources)*



Shamrock

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

CHURCH SERVICES ON LOCAL CABLE CHANNEL 6

www.catv6.com

That's the web site for the weekly broadcast schedule for our Comcast local access cable. Portions of our Sunday services are videoed and shown on Comcast channel 6. Because of the variety of meetings and events that are shown and because of the changing lengths of each video, however, exact broadcast times are not the same to the minute each week. Here are the approximate times our service is on:

Monday - 4:00 pm

Tuesday - 3:30 pm

Saturday - 11:00 am

Sunday - 10:05 am



And more! In any week, there may be additional times that we appear on the schedule. As of this writing (week of Feb. 12th), we're also on Tuesday at 12:20 pm and Wednesday at 9:30 pm. The scheduling changes daily, so it's best to check the web site schedule.

Tune in several minutes ahead of time, since times are approximate. And if you know someone who is not familiar with these cable telecasts and perhaps unable to access the above schedule, please help them to be able to watch the services.

And still more! If you aren't a Comcast subscriber, services are becoming available on YouTube. Links will be provided on the Sermon page of our website.

Lee Collins

RECYCLING - STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

In an effort to make our church recycling more effective, we have increased the number of blue recycling bins. These distinctive containers labeled with the recycling logo are for:



- office paper and printed material,
- newsprint, light (not corrugated)
- cardboard, nothing with food residue

An additional bin in the kitchen is for cans, bottles, and other food containers.

The Salisbury/Sharon transfer station maintains one of the highest per-capita recycling volumes in the state. Remember, everything that goes into **trash costs our town money**. Everything that goes into **recycling saves our town money**.

Lee Collins

Girl Scouts reach century mark



In 1912, Georgia resident Juliette Gordon Low phoned a distant cousin and said, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!"

Today the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) continues to empower girls through community service, camping experiences and the teaching of other practical skills. The organization, which has nurtured more than 50 million participants, strives to build "girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place."

APPROACHING LENT AS 'EASTER PEOPLE'

Written by Geoffrey A. Black

Entering the Lenten season is always a bit of a perplexing situation. We go into Lent knowing it as a time of increased devotion, fasting and generosity – but also understanding these practices of discipleship are traits we want to hold dear in our walk of faith at all times.

Throughout ministry I've been made aware of a variety of practices that accompany Lent. I've observed various forms of fasting - from meat, alcohol, candy or television; soup dinners and study sessions at churches; and special offerings to help those in need. I've seen churches and individuals make concerted efforts at growing in their faith. I've witnessed earnest prayer and actions toward restoring justice.

When we make this Lenten journey together, we not only commit to 40 days

of doing the right thing – loving God, neighbor and self – we put in motion the disciplines that help us embrace the fullness of Easter throughout the year. As "Easter people" we are set free to live lives of discipleship. As a "church of the resurrection" we have hope for new life, not only for ourselves, but also for the world.

I recently returned from a trip visiting Global Ministries mission partners in India. It was my first trip to India and an eye-opening, horizon-expanding tour of work in which the church is engaged. This experience helps me to put this Lent into a new context, remembering that fasting is a luxury for those of us who live with plenty, increased prayer is required by those who don't already walk by faith alone and almsgiving is the privilege of those who lack nothing.

We enter Lent on Ash Wednesday, sealed

with the sign of the cross using ashes that remind us of our human frailty and reliance upon Jesus Christ. We journey through Lent as a church that strives to be more fully present as the Body of Christ to those we encounter, in all we do and say. We maintain the hope in Easter and the power of the resurrection that continually calls us to envision and work toward the promised Realm of God.

I pray the weeks leading to Easter are ones of spiritual blessing and enrichment, personal generosity and self-examination, and corporate prayer and actions that lead us in ways of justice. May we be Easter people at all times, open to the possibility that God is going to break out among us in new and exciting ways. Amen.

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black is General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and a member of its five-person Collegium of Officers.



BELIEF

Belief: Readings on the Reason for Faith is the title of the book we are reading for Lent. Thirty-two essays compiled by Francis Collins explore the meaning of faith in our lives. Authors ranging from Plato to C.S. Lewis to Martin Luther King, Jr. explore the role that faith has had in their lives.

You are encouraged to read the book as a Lenten discipline as you reflect on your own faith and the influence it has on your life. A group gathers on Thursday mornings at 10:00 in the Parish Hall to discuss one of the essays. Everyone is welcome – even if you haven't read the book yet. For more information contact Pastor Diane



MARCH IN THE SON – MARCH 24TH

Registration is now open for this day-long learning event featuring worship, workshops and networking. Designed for local church leaders, pastors, and Christian educators, this is a collaboration of CAUCE and the CT Conference. Join us and discover new strategies, ideas and tools for our varied ministries and missions.

You'll find a link to a flyer about the workshops on the home page of our website.

If you are interested in attending, speak with Pastor Diane.

REMEMBER OWL'S KITCHEN

Please remember those in our communities in need of the basics. Non-perishable food is always welcome, and can be left in the baskets in the narthex and the parish hall corridor.



LENTEN PRAYER

Having begun on February 29th, we will continue through Lent to gather in the Meeting House on Wednesday evenings, from 6:45-7:15, to pray.

It is a quiet time to rest in God's presence. Pastor Diane reads from scripture or devotional material for a few minutes at a time, followed by a few minutes of silence. There are usually five or six cycles of prayer/silence. We conclude with a musical benediction, provided by Al Sly on the piano.

This quiet time provides an opportunity to reflect on our lives and our Lenten journey. All are welcome to join us – come as often as you can. May your Lenten journey be one of grace and peace.



A PALM SUNDAY TO REMEMBER

Palm Sunday falls on April 1st this year. We will have the traditional Palm Sunday parade with our neighbors from St. John's Church. We will start at the White Hart Inn and march to the church singing All Glory, Laud & Honor accompanied by the Salisbury Christian Family Marching Jubilee Band.



Our worship service will include a dramatic reading of the Passion Story, written by Duane Estes and presented by members of the congregation. The children will remain in church with their families for this event.

You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear scripture come to life!

LETTER FROM THE DEACONS HYMNS IN OUR WORSHIP

Hymns (a religious songs or songs of praise) have been part of Christian worship and are mentioned in the New Testament.

(Matthew, Chapter 26, verse 30) "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives," The history of hymn singing is varied and complex, from its early beginnings in Bysantium and the West.

Pliny the Younger wrote of "Songs to Christ" about the year 112 A.D. Early Christian churches adopted the heritage and ritual of the ancient Jewish temple where psalms were sung responsively and antiphonally (singing in turn by two choruses). As the church spread through Asia Minor and westward toward Africa, and Europe, it accumulated musical

sources from many national sources, a process, which continues today as new hymns are composed.

Hymn singing was an important tradition in the Eastern Church as well as the Western Church. The oldest surviving manuscript of Christian music is a fragment of a papyrus found in 1896 in an ancient Egyptian town.

Hymns were sung throughout the development of the early church, leading to Gregorian chant in the Middle Ages. Moving forward to the Renaissance and the Reformation, however, there is a veritable explosion of hymns and religious music of all sorts, which continues until this day.

Protestantism led the way in the development of congregational hymn singing, and

often pastors were expected to be able to lead the congregation in the singing. J.S. Bach harmonized more than 450 tunes (at a minimum), which came from well-known religious tunes, or folk tunes, to make them attractive to choirs and congregations. These harmonizations are used widely today to teach principles of harmony to music students.

Our familiar *Pilgrim Hymnal* certainly shows our tradition of bringing in hymns from all styles and cultures, and we have a supplement to add new ones. While there have been elements of Christianity, which have banned music and hymns at times, they are truly in the minority. Hymns, psalms, music, and anthems are an integral part of how we worship now, and have been for over 2000 years.

Malcolm Brown

A STRONG AND VITAL CHURCH

As a local church, we are in covenant with sixteen other UCC Churches in the Litchfield North Association (LNA), as well as the Connecticut Conference. The LNA is the body that ordains and monitors the ministers serving local churches. The Committee on Church and Ministry, of which we provide two members (Ruth Tyrol and Alvord Beardslee), oversees this work. Within the last year and a half seven new ministers have been called to pulpits in Litchfield North:

- Jackie Hall at Winchester Center United Church of Christ;
- Margaret Hofmeister at North Congregational Church in New Hartford;
- Rhonda Meyers at United Congregational Church in Torrington;
- Diane Monti-Catania at Congregational Church of Salisbury;
- Michelle Wiltshire-Clement at Falls Village Congregational Church;
- Donald Morgan at Warren Congregational Church;
- Savage Frieze at North Canaan Congregational
- Jeremiah Rood was ordained in the Harwinton Church and has been installed as the Minister of the South Deerfield Church in Massachusetts.

In addition, Center Church in Torrington is just coming to the end of their search and will be calling a pastor soon. All of the pulpits in Litchfield North Association are filled!

If you would like to be involved with the Litchfield North Association or the Connecticut Conference, please speak with Pastor Diane.

"GIVING IS ONLY ONE OF THE WAYS THAT WE WORSHIP GOD."



This simple but powerful sentence was said by Pastor Diane at the beginning of the Offertory several weeks ago. It never really occurred to me that giving to the Every Member Canvass (EMC) is a form of worship, but once I heard

this declaration, it underlined why it feels so good and so important to give every year to this church that we love, nurture, and support. We are truly blessed to be such a loving and giving congregation.

I am constantly touched by the generosity shown by so many of you, from large gifts to small gifts, all of them acts of devotion to a spirit that is great and wonderful. I understand now that this generosity is not something that we HAVE to do but it is part of why we come to church, why we believe in a power greater than ourselves, and why we look for communion and consolation within the four walls of our beautiful sanctuary.

Thank you all for your support and generosity. Our goal this year was much greater than last year, and we have been very successful in getting to that goal. Most of you have pledged or given, and the EMC Committee is very grateful for your prompt response to our letter.

We will be sending out a second appeal in early March to those of you who have overlooked making a pledge or have simply forgotten. It is never too late to give!!!!

Surely, gratitude is another way that we worship God, a great and glorious way to praise the Lord.

Thanks to you all, from a very grateful EMC Committee.

Carol Magowan

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

~Charles Dickens

Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

—Source unknown

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Don't forget the fundraising dinner for Theresa on Saturday, February 25th (If this reached you before then)!				1 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	2 7:00 - Men's Inter- faith Bible Breakfast 2:00 - World Day of Prayer, UCC, Cornwall, CT* World Day of Prayer	3 2:30 - ESTHER -A one-act opera - (see Feb. MHT)
National Women's History Month						
4 10:00 - Worship, Communion, No church school; crib & toddler care available. OWL's Kitchen food collection 11:30 - Board of Trustees Second Sunday in Lent	5 12:00 - 1:00 - Women's brown-bag lunch, Parish Hall	6	7 6:45 - 7:15 - Contemp- lative Prayer in the Meeting House* 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	9 7:00 - Men's Inter- faith Bible Breakfast	10
11 10:00 - Worship & Church School. 11:30 -Bd. of Christian Action Daylight-Saving Time begins Third Sunday in Lent	12	13	14 10:00 - Prayer Group 6:45 - 7:15 - Contemp- lative Prayer in the Meeting House* 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	15 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	16 7:00 - Men's Inter- faith Bible Breakfast 6:00 - Potluck Supper*	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 10:00 - Worship & Church School. One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday 11:30 -Church Council Fourth Sunday in Lent	19 12:00 - 1:00 - Women's brown-bag lunch, Parish Hall	20 First Day of Spring	21 6:45 - 7:15 - Contemp- lative Prayer in the Meeting House* 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	23 7:00 - Men's Inter- faith Bible Breakfast	24
25 10:00 - Worship & Church School. New Members welcomed Fifth Sunday in Lent	26	27 5:30 - 7:00 - Bd. of Deacons	28 10:00 - Prayer Group 6:45 - 7:15 - Contemp- lative Prayer in the Meeting House* 7:30- Choir Rehearsal	29 10:00 - 11:30 - Lenten Book Discussion, Parish Hall*	30 7:00 - Men's Inter- faith Bible Breakfast	31

* Article in this MHT

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER: TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH



1st Robert Weber	17th Leanne LaFosse
4th Desean Taber	18th Hawk Blumert
5th Marion Labat-Comess	21st Rebecca Offensend
6th Olivia May	23rd Karin Noyes
10th Dave Heck	31st Lauren Hanlon
13th Carrie Babigian	31st Sarah Zarbock
14th Debra Palmer	31st Maggie Smith



Potluck Supper

There will be a potluck supper on **Friday, March 16th, at 6:00** for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. Bring a large main dish or salad (either homemade or take-out) to share. Bread, dessert and beverage will be provided. Bring a friend. Bring a family.

There is no need to RSVP. Wondering about a possible cancellation? Do you need a ride? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).



ST. MARY'S LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our neighbors at **St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lakeville**, have extended an invitation to their **Lenten Lecture Series**. They are hosting a **Simple Soup Supper at 5:30** followed by a speaker:
Monday, March 5th, Rebecca Cohen from Women Support Services, on the issue of bullying;
Wednesday, March 21st, Keith Moon from Hotchkiss will discuss his recent trip to Russia;
Tuesday, April 3rd, Rabbi Michael Pincus from Temple Beth Israel will be the guest speaker.



Giving Tree

Many thanks to our wonderfully generous congregation! Over 100 ornaments were taken from the Christmas Giving Tree in December. Beautifully wrapped packages and gift bags were returned and distributed to needy families working with the Astor Early Childhood Program and the Grace Smith House.

The staff of the Astor Program writes "Thank you so very much for all your kindness. There were many happy children and moms because of your warm hearts."

*Jeanette Weber and Jane Capecelatro
for the Board of Christian Action*

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



SOUPER BOWL

There were 161 food items, mostly soup, collected on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5th. Wow! Special thanks to Tom and Kay Key for delivering the many bags and boxes of donations to OWL's Kitchen. At Coffee Hour everyone was given the opportunity to vote for their favorite Super Bowl team with pocket change. Patriot fans can take comfort in the fact that the Pats did experience a victory that day, beating the Giants by \$2.15 at the Congregational Church of Salisbury. The total amount raised was \$48.22, also sent off to OWL's Kitchen. All in all, a souperior day, thanks to our generous members and friends!

Barbara Collins

SPECIAL THANKS

Linda Estabrook and Janet Kaufman made all the preparations for our Sunday School children to decorate eight dozen cupcakes for coffee hour on Sunday, February 12th. They supervised hand-washing (with soap!), frosting-spreading, sprinkle-sprinkling, and juice-serving with great love and good humor. Meanwhile, Stephanie Tierney was busy inspiring the children to create extraordinary Valentines for members of our church family who were confined to home or health care. Thank you, Linda, Janet, and Stephanie - the Valentine Team.



Barbara Collins

THE LEGEND OF THE DOGWOOD



There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree.

Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it:

"Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross - two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember ..."



SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| bloom 6-1- | blossom 2x2- | rejoice 4x2- |
| burst 3+3- | wilderness 2-1- | joy 5-5- |
| crocus 3+2- ____ | desert 1x0- ____ | parched 0-1- ____ |
| glad 2x1= ____ | shout 10-1= ____ | |

"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers: "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and shout for joy, and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly."



"I'm following pastor on Twitter."