

“Welcome Home!”

Whether you're here for the first time or have been away awhile, it's a pleasure to welcome you home to Barstow Free Methodist Church, where there are always opportunities to grow in your faith, make new friends, or join us in making a difference in our community.

Today's service will flow with a familiar and edifying rhythm while remaining open to the spontaneous ways God sometimes leads and blesses us. We encourage you to open your hearts and lives to Him – He loves you and is glad you're here among His people. Praise Him. Trust Him. And look for His blessings. Welcome home!

“Why Do We...”

...recite the words, “I believe in... the holy catholic Church”?

The Apostle's Creed is an ancient confession of the Christian faith, meticulously formulated by Christian leaders around the year 180 A.D. and enduring as an authoritative standard of what Christians in all places at all times have always believed. The word “catholic” simply means “universal” – that the Church is *one*, regardless of social, political, or other such differences that seek to divide us. It is not, therefore, a reference to Roman Catholics -- arguably not even labeled as such until the 11th century. When we confess that we believe in “the holy catholic Church”, we affirm that ALL Christians are *one*. This includes Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. The Apostle's Creed reminds us of what it means to be “Christian.”

Food for Thought...

“Beneath the surface of every person is a human being with an insatiable need to know who he or she was created to be.”

– Kary Oberbrunner

Our Rhythm of Worship



Rooted in the practice of earliest Christianity, our worship follows a simple fourfold pattern:

- **Gather** - we prepare our minds and hearts.
- **Word** - we encounter the ancient scriptures.
- **Table** - we partake of Holy Communion.
- **Send** - we go into the world as salt and light.

Scripture and Christian tradition teach us that worship should be characterized by both *structure* and *spontaneity*. This gives our worship times a sense of *familiarity* as well as *mystery*. Our worship services are roughly 90 minutes long.

Our Christian Schools

The Drive-Thru Tri-tip dinners return **March 1st** and **March 15th, 5-7pm** both days. Cost is \$8 per dinner and includes tri-tip, green beans, baked potato, roll, and cookie. This is a delicious dinner, and the proceeds go to support our school. If you would like to volunteer, contact Heather Bradford at 256-3556.

Barstow FMC Youth

Jr. High and Senior High students – join us on **Wednesday** nights at **7pm** in the Youth Room for a cool time of music, video, discussions, and more! You can also pick up a flyer in the front foyer detailing upcoming events!

Please Pray this Week... ---

-- Ask God to bless the ministries of New Life Fellowship.

Here's What's Happening:

Senior Potluck Today!

If you're 50-plus, come have lunch with us right after second service today in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time of sharing food, fun, and fellowship you won't want to miss! Please join us.

Night of Champions

All junior and high school students are invited to the APU Night of Champions outreach program on **Saturday, March 17th at 12 pm**. Tickets cost \$10. All students need to submit a \$5 deposit by Wednesday **March 7th**. For more information and permission slips contact Glenn Low at 987-6690.

Lent: Home Groups

This is a great time to join a home group. Each group will be adding an extra element of a video and discussion to help guide and enhance your Lenten season. To join a group, see Pastor Chris, Pastor Carlos, or Ingrid Monroe. For more information, call 256-3556.

Stock the Food Closet

This week we're asking for canned meat (tuna/chicken) to give to hungry families. Thank you!

Hour of Prayer

Come out and pray for the church this **Saturday, March 3rd**, from **9-10am**. Meet in the sanctuary.

Christian School Auction/Dinner

This annual fundraiser is at Rosita's this **Saturday, March 3rd at 5:00pm**. Get your \$25 tickets today. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Barstow Christian School.

It's Not About You

Sign up for our next spiritual formation class using Max Lucado's *It's Not About Me* as we journey together through the upcoming season of Lent. Class begins **Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30pm** in the Adult Training Center. Get the 2004 edition online. For more info contact Pastor Carlos at 256-3556 ext 232.

Invest in Your Church: Serve!

We all need to serve our church in order to more effectively minister to the community we are called to reach. Here are some **immediate** needs for volunteers on a weekly or monthly basis: nursery worker, work project manager, guest follow-up coordinator, audio mixer/engineer, tenor, lead guitarist, office volunteer. Call or email Pastor Chris at (760) 256-3556 ext. 236 monroe.chris@gmail.com to help.

Women's Breakfast

Come join a group of ladies for food, fellowship, devotions, and prayer at Quigley's on **Saturday, March 10th at 8:30am**.

Following the Christian Year...

Today is: **First Sunday of Lent** Season We Are in: **Lent**
Liturgical Color Being Displayed: **Purple** (symbolizes Royalty and Jesus as King)

Today's Lectionary Readings: **Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15**
(**Bold** = passages being read during worship this morning)

Although Lent began as a 40-day period of preparation for those to be baptized on Easter Sunday, the ancient church soon expanded the observance to include all believers. Marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving -- the Lenten season is meant to be a sustained time of personal reflection, repentance, and renewal – an opportunity to identify with Christ's passion, death, and... resurrection!



The **Lectionary** is a collection of Old and New Testament Scripture lessons, organized to guide believers through the Christian Year, and exposing them to all parts of the Bible. This maintains our connection with historical Christianity, while at the same time, leaving opportunity for God's Spirit to lead in fresh, new ways.

Today's Reflection

Based on today's reading of 1 Peter 3:15-18

Meaningful Suffering

Suffering is easier to accept if it serves some purpose. Some suffering seems totally senseless—the loss of an innocent life, the abandonment of a good dream, or devastation by forces of nature. But if suffering can bring about some perceivable good, it is easier to endure.

Perhaps this is what gave Jesus strength to endure the suffering at the end of his life. To unbelievers, his death must have seemed a complete waste, but in the eyes of God it was a perfect sacrifice offering redemption to the world. The First Letter of Peter says that Christ suffered for sins once, “that he might lead you to God.” His suffering had a purpose.

Through the suffering of Christ we come closer to God. Through faith in God we can more easily accept our suffering for the sake of others, especially if it leads them also to Christ.

Sometimes, paradoxically, it is our faith that brings on suffering. We have hope when the world prefers despair. We act gently when others prefer to fight. We build up others when they prefer to defame. The tension between doing good and doing evil tempts the Christian to sin. But when we are strong in faith, we live peacefully in the Spirit.

The journey of faith may be marred by suffering, but it leads to a good reward. It unites us with the suffering of our savior, and it leads others to Christ.

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Making a Difference



Today is Freedom Sunday for many churches around the world including our own. It's a day to lift up the Biblical call of freedom and justice in the face of rising 21st-Century slavery. It's a day to pray for the emancipation of millions of exploited children and young adults. It's a day to learn, commit, and mobilize locally to end human trafficking wherever it is practiced globally. We will be taking up a special offering today that will go directly to International Child Care Ministries and their Stand For Children campaign. This project raises awareness of trafficking; teaches children their rights; empowers children and adults to speak up; mobilizes intervention resources; and seeds an abolitionist culture of vigilance and proactivity among Free Methodist Churches in India. Thank you for your support and for making a difference!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012

Week-at-a-Glance

Today

9:00 am
Worship Service
Kids' Reaching Our Community

10:30 am
Adult & Kids' Cafe

11:00 am
Worship Service
Children's Sunday School

** Small Groups meet at various times

Monday

6:00 pm
1212: The Next Step in Recovery
– Adult Training Center

Wednesday

6:30 pm
“A History of Christian Worship”
– Adult Training Center

6:30 pm
Baptism Class
– Church Offices

Wednesday

7:00 pm
Youth Meeting

Thursday

12:00 pm
Women's Bible Study at Del Taco
– Mountain View

7:00 pm
Sewing & Quilting Group
– Adult Training Center

*Nursery care is provided for Sunday services
located at the church*

**This Month's Ancient
Christian Symbol**



The Celtic Cross symbolizes the eternal and infinite love of God through the suffering of Jesus on the cross. The circle in the middle of the cross represents the divine mystery of how through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, our Lord bestows His love and hope of salvation to faithful believers. The symbol also represents balance, honor, faith, unity, temperance, ascension, hope, life, and direction.

Visit Our "Art Corner"

Today's Art Corner features a beautiful print of the Baciccio masterpiece: *St. Joseph and the Infant Child*, c. 1670-1685

Holding a one-month old baby Jesus....can you imagine what that might have been like? Rather than looking into his eyes, maybe he would be gazing deep into yours!



True Freedom
Freedom Sunday, Lent, part 1

Galatians 4:28-5:1
(pg. 1065)

True Freedom...

1. Comes through _____ and knowing _____
_____.
2. Responds with _____ and _____.
3. Seeks _____.
4. Works to _____
_____.
5. Honors _____.
6. Is not _____.
7. Is _____.

A Final Thought:

Don't just _____, work at _____ in ways that
_____!

Pastor Chris Monroe 02/26/12

Belong. Believe. Become.

Barstow
Free Methodist

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