

“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...

“Before God can use a man greatly, He must wound him deeply.”

– Oswald Chambers

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 next Drive-Thru Tri-tip dinner is **March 15th, 5-7pm**. 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 High Desert Word Center.

Here's What's Happening:

Sandwich Sunday is Next Sunday!!!

Come join your church family for fellowship, sandwiches, and salad downstairs in the fellowship hall following second service next Sunday, **March 11th**. This luncheon is free and is always a lot of fun--the only thing missing is you!

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 noon**. Tickets cost \$10. All students need to submit a \$5 deposit by this 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!

Daylight Savings This Week

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!

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 this **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.

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**.

Society Meeting

There will be a Society Meeting for all members in the Fellowship Hall **Sunday, March 25th** after second service. Please come out and participate as we do the work of the church.

St. Patrick's Day Movie

Mark your calendars for a movie about the life of St. Patrick and a potluck on **Saturday, March 17th at 6pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the back to bring a potluck dish.

Make a Joyful Noise

The Worship Team needs singers, bass guitarist, drummer, and a pianist. If you are willing to learn and can help, call Pastor Chris at 256-3556 ext. 236.

Following the Christian Year...

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

Today's Lectionary Readings: **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38**
(**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 Romans 4:13-25

Believing the Unbelievable

Talk about having faith. Abraham had faith in God's promise. God promised that the patriarch would be the father of so many descendants that you would not be able to count them all. Abraham believed God could do this and that God would do it.

There was an obstacle or two. Abraham was almost one hundred years old. So was his wife Sarah. Men do not normally father children and women do not normally conceive at those ages. That did not stop Abraham from believing. It did not stop God from acting.

Abraham indeed became the father of many nations. God rewarded him not because of something the old man did, but because of how he believed. Abraham had faith.

St. Paul told the Romans that God will also reward Christian faith. Christians “believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification.”

Before we ever perform an action that pleases God, the faith in heart pleases God first. Faith, of course, will inspire us to live what we believe. But when we first experience the revelation of God, we respond to it in faith.

It takes faith to believe in God's promises. It takes faith to believe that Christ is risen, that the world could be at peace, that one small act of kindness can make a difference, or that the ways of nature might change to preserve life or to create it. But God rewards that kind of faith.

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Making a Difference

Last year, Freedom Sunday offerings made possible the property purchase and construction material for the first International Child Care Ministries children's hostel in Thailand. It is strategically located in the Lahu tribal area because these children are especially susceptible to trafficking. After setbacks due to heavy rains and flooding last summer and autumn, the ICCM Lahu Hostel is now complete and ready to welcome ICCM-sponsored children. All of the Lahu tribal children who applied to ICCM have now been sponsored. They will be the first residents of the new hostel. The hostel will be overseen by local Free Methodist Pastor Anan, who has worked diligently to bring the ICCM Lahu Hostel into a promising reality. Join with him, with the Lahu children and families, and ICCM in celebrating this new hostel -- with a prayer that it saves and changes many lives in the years to come. Our contributions to ICCM have shown God's love around the globe. Thank you for making a difference!



SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 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
"It's Not About Me"
– Adult Training Center

7:00 pm
Youth Meeting

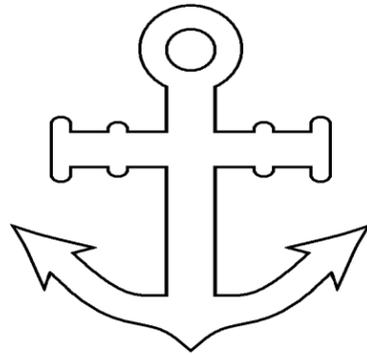
Thursday

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***



This month's Christian symbol is the anchor. In the first century, when Christians represented the sign of the cross on monuments, they felt had to conceal it in some artistic and yet symbolic way. The anchor and the cross look familiar which made it an easy pick as a suitable Christian emblem. The anchor pointed toward putting hope on the cross of Christ.

Visit Our "Art Corner"

This week, we are pleased to feature a painting by Ron DiCianni entitled, "In the Wilderness." What a fitting depiction – not only to remind us of Jesus' own wilderness temptations, but to prepare us to enter the season of Lent, and our own time of introspection.



The Way that Leads to Life
Lent, part 2

Mark 8:27-38
(pg. 921)



Belong. Believe. Become.



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Pastor Chris Monroe 3/04/12

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