

Minister's Musings

Because of John's illness, his usual column will not appear in this edition of the newsletter. He appreciates your calls, your thoughtful expressions of concern, and looks forward to seeing all of you at our Lenten Worship Gathering on March 8th.

IT'S HAPPENING AT CCM

Sunday, March 8 (2nd Sunday of the Month)

10:00 a.m. LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent is a period of forty days just prior to Easter during which themes related to the crucifixion of Jesus and personal introspection often are considered. Today, we will look at perhaps the most significant of them. John's message is entitled "The Death of Jesus? WHY???" Did Jesus—an innocent person—really have to die before God would forgive and accept us? Or might we have misunderstood the message of Jesus and, in so doing, portrayed God as a monster? This will not be a *traditional* message, but it may be one of the most important you'll ever hear. Discussion of the topic will follow worship. (Out by about 12 noon)

Sunday, March 15 (3rd Sunday of the Month)

10:00 a.m. LEARNING TO LISTEN TO GOD: THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF PRAYER

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, meditation has always been the second and potentially most important aspect of prayer: the part in which, after we speak to God, we listen quietly for God to speak to us. Because many people today forget to do this, we tend *not* to have a sense of the *presence* of God within our lives any more.

Today, the focus of the session will be on experiencing more fulfilling relationships: improving our marriages, friendships, and relations even with persons we may perceive as enemies. John will share an ancient technique that can help us move more fully in that direction. (Out by about 12:00 noon)