



Fincastle Presbyterian Church

“Are We “Poor Wayfaring Strangers”?”

...from The Desk of David

Some would say that my father, Eli Dickerson, was not a good singer. But, I would say that Dad could be a very good singer! When he was alone in his basement lawn-mower repair shop, Dad would occasionally belt out a few phrases and lines from some old ballad or gospel hymn. He would sing from his heart when he would sing one of his favorites: “I Am A Poor Wayfaring Stranger”.

The opening lyrics to one version of that old ballad went like this: *“I am a poor wayfaring stranger, I’m travelin’ through this world of woe”*.

My father could identify with that “plaintive traveler” and his/her journey through this “world of woe”. I can imagine that: you and I can also identify with that traveler. We can turn-on the news and hear:

- That earthquakes in Syria and Turkey have claimed 50,000 lives, or more;
- That the war in Ukraine has claimed 100,000 Ukrainian soldiers; 200,000 (or more) Russian soldiers, and perhaps 100,000 civilians or more;
- That Covid has claimed over 6 million world-wide and over 1 million in the U.S. alone!

On a personal level, if we are honest with ourselves, our own personal failures and sins only add to “this world of woe”.

There is much about the “hard realities” of our journeys through “this world of woe” that would convince us that all of our journeys will end badly. That decay, destruction, and death will speak the final word for ourselves, for the world, and even for the universe itself.

Never-the-less, on Easter Sunday (and on every other day of its life), the church declares “the Good

I AM A POOR WAYFARING STRANGER

Intro

1 I am a poor way-far-ing stran-ger While trav-ling thru this world of
 2 I know dark clouds will ga-ther round me, I know my way is rough and
 3 I'll soon be free from ev-ry tri- al, My bod-y sleep in the church

Part 1

woe, Yet there's no sick-ness, toil or dan-ger In that bright world to which I
 steep; But gold-en fields lie out-be-fore me Where God's re-deemed shall es-er
 yard; I'll drop the cross of self-de-ni-al And en-ter on my great re-

go. I'm go-ing there to see my Fa-ther, I'm go-ing there no more to roam
 sleep. I'm go-ing there to see the saved ones, Who passed be-fore me one by one;
 ward. I'm go-ing there to see my Sav-ior, To sing His praise for-ev-er-moore;

I'm on-ly go-ing o-ver Jor-dan, I'm on-ly go-ing o-ver home.

News” (the Gospel) that “decay, destruction, death” will not speak the final word in our existence. Rather, God, in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from death into the life everlasting, will speak the final word in our existence.

May the “Good News” of Easter empower you and me to continue our journeys through “this world of woe” in the Spirit of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; in His Spirit of optimism and hope that “nothing, not even this world of woe” , ... will ever separate us from the love of God for us in Jesus Christ”!

As Christians we may journey through a “world of woe”, however, we do not journey alone. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is always with us and for us! More than that, we do not journey as powerless victims, we journey as disciples of our Lord Jesus who calls us to transform “this world of woe” into a better world.

Peace in Christ,

David



Wednesday Lenten Services and Lunch

*Fincastle United Methodist Church—Family Life Center
Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for a short, 20 minute service beginning at 12:05 with music and messages of faith and hope from area pastors. A home-cooked lunch immediately follows each service at 12:30 pm*

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| March 15 | Rev. Rob Lough
Former Pastor at St. Mark's UMC Daleville | Ham biscuits, potato salad, fruit, desserts |
| March 22 | Pastors Tom and Naomi Powers
Daleville Church of the Brethren | Chicken salad croissants, vegetable salad, chips, desserts |
| March 29 | Rev. Fr. David Stanfill
Church of the Transfiguration, Fincastle | Sub sandwiches, coleslaw, chips, pickles, dessert |



By [Sadie Stein](#)
March 2, 2015

[OUR DAILY CORRESPONDENT](#)

“In like a lion, out like a lamb” has always seemed a straightforward enough proverb: when March starts, it’s still winter, and by the end of the month spring has begun. True, in many climates the weather hasn’t quite reached the lamb stage by the end of the month—it’s more like a surly cat, maybe, or one of those awful territorial honking geese. But we get the idea. I have seen the phrase referred to as an “eighteenth-century saying” in more than one unreliable Internet source, while Wikipedia calls it “an old Pennsylvania” saw.

Other March Sayings from the same article

*So many mists in March you see
So many frosts in May will be.*

*A Peck of March-Dust, and a Shower in May
Makes the Corn green, and the Fields gay.*

*March many-Weathers rain’d and blow’d
But March grass never did good.*



Looking Ahead to Easter and the rest of March

- Remember to order you **daffodils or tulips** for the Easter Day Service. Cost \$15 each. Call Danette by Tuesday, March 14 to order if you haven't already done so.
- **David's Sunday School Class** (meets at 9:30 before church) will be studying the 4 gospels' accounts of Easter. All are welcome,



- Remember Lyn Burton's **Bible Study** on Monday in March at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- March 23 at 7:00 pm—**Session Meeting** in the Fellowship Hall
- March 29 at 4:30 pm—**Worship Committee Meeting** in the Fellowship Hall
- April 2 **Palm Sunday**—the congregation will gather on the portico before worship and process in with palms to put on the alter and then go to your seat
- **PALM SUNDAY** April 2—Covered Dish luncheon after church



- Thursday, April 6, **Maundy Thursday**—Tenebrae Service in the sanctuary at 7 pm. Communion will be served by intinction. The hand bells will be playing.

- April 9—**EASTER SUNDAY**—gather at the hill in Godwin Cemetery at 7 am for a joint Sunrise Service with FUMC; regular service will be held at 10:30 in our sanctuary at 10:30 am. The hand bells will be performing.
- David will be on "Study Leave/Vacation" April 10—16

