

Faith Calls...

Faith United Methodist Church
 9820 W. Markham Street
 Little Rock, AR 72205
 Church: 501-225-4286
 Rev. David Hoffman, Pastor
 (501) 475-6397 cell phone

Pastor's Thoughts

March, 2017

Office@Faithumc-lr.org

www.faithumc-lr.org

GIVING UP SOMETHING

Lent, the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) that precedes the celebration of Easter has its origin in the early days of the Church. Converts seeking to become Christian, who at that time were mostly adults, spent several years in study and preparation. Then they went through a final period of "purification and enlightenment" for the 40 days before their baptism at Easter. The rest of the Church began to observe the season of Lent in solidarity with these newest Christians.

I have a standard "give-up," beets and turnip greens. These two are easy because I don't eat them anyway. Others give up soda, desserts or chocolate because of the tradition, without knowing why it is done. The problem is, right after Easter we can resume enjoying what we have given up. There is little lasting effect. The question we have to ask is, "Does this bring you closer to Christ and does it create awareness for those who need our love?"

A few years ago, James W. Moore created a Lenten study called "Give Up Something Bad For Lent." His premise is that people of faith should go further, giving up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing at all. We should consider giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. And then continue to give them up after Easter.

Unlike giving up chocolate or beets, giving up the things Moore mentions will have a truly lasting effect and will have a very noticeable impact on our part of the world.

Use the Lenten season to find a deeper faith, one that will make Easter mean so much more to you. My sermon series will be based upon Adam Hamilton's book, "*John: The Gospel of Light*". Our study is timely for the Lenten season, as the Gospel of John displays the spiritual side of the Gospels, instead of an historical account of Jesus' life and ministry.

Looking toward Easter, please give up something that will make a lasting impression on you and those you meet. Really consider giving up something BAD.

Note: Since March 17 falls during this month, Slainte! Erin go brag! Let your sham rock!

Shalom, *David*

Get Up and Give, an opportunity to help those in need, begins March 1. Many items are needed at Methodist Family Health. Pick up a list on the FYI table and know that every gift is greatly appreciated.

Thank you. Joyce Booth wishes to thank all members of the congregation who responded to her need for prayer following her surgery. She feels blessed and very special to have received calls, cards, and meals from her friends at Faith UMC.

Lenten Study

At 9:45am each Sunday during Lent, all SS classes will meet for a season of spiritual growth and renewal in Adam Hamilton's six-week, DVD-based study, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. ALL are welcome!

Message from our Bishop

"I am grateful that your congregation has paid 100% of your apportionments yet again! And while "Thank You" is not enough,...please realize that my thanks are heartfelt.."

The Upper Room is an excellent daily devotional to use all year long. You will especially enjoy the messages published for the Lenten Season. The March/April devotional books may be picked up this week. Check out the FYI table for other materials that are free.

Sometimes

Ann Freeman Price

sometimes
 we relish not changing
 things staying the same
 in a repetitious flow
 but
 sometimes
 a shift happens
 a threshold appears
 and we are challenged
 to
 step into newness
 stride past fear
 trust in God's surprises

Deadline for April newsletter is March 15, 2017

OVER