

February, 2018

Faith Calls...

Pastor's Thoughts

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Looking Toward Easter

It seems Christmas just happened and now we are looking at Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14th this year, and lasts 40 days ending Maundy Thursday of Holy or Passion Week. The word "lent" refers to the lengthening of the days as spring progresses toward Easter.

Lent is a solemn observance that reminds us that we are mortal and prone to sin. Traditionally, the believer was called to spend the time in contemplation and fasting. Many Christians give up some luxury as a penitence for sin. This self-denial is intended to mark the suffering Christ experienced during the 40 days he spent in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. Money saved from giving up these luxuries was to be given to charities. It was also a time to prepare new believers for their coming baptisms on Easter Sunday. Educational preparation lasted as long as 2 or 3 years, ending with an intensive period of instruction during Lent.

If you checked my calcula-

tions, you noticed the time between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday is 46 days, not 40. This is because the 6 Sundays of Lent are not counted in the period of penitence. Sundays are considered a day to break the fast and to worship and celebrate the risen Christ.

I urge you to use the time in a traditional way, studying and praying. There are many good Lenten devotional programs available. Lenten programs are designed toward repentance and restoring your relationship with God. Please come on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. to pray with the prayer group led by Anita Rutt. You may also come anytime the church is open.

I will be conducting a confirmation class at Geyer Springs with two students. At the end of the program, if they are ready and wish to do so, they will be confirmed as professing members. I will also be offering an adult version of the class at Faith on Tuesday evenings for the Under-5 group and any others who wish to attend.

We will have Lenten Lunch-Ins at noon on Wednesdays at Faith. Our worship will be a short devotional and a hymn or two followed by a simple meal together. I encourage you to make as many as you can and bring guests and coworkers if possible. Groups will be asked to assist in preparation of the meal so please don't hesitate.

Easter is the fulfillment of promises. Jesus promised the grave could not hold him and he rose from the dead. His resurrection became a promise for each of us, in that we may also be resurrected into the glory of God's presence.

Shalom,

Bro. David



- Birthdays**
 2/4, Shari Cross
 2/20, Lacey Gross
 2.21, Margaret Park
 2/23, Joan Hamilton
 2/26, Terry Young
- Anniversary**
 2/14, Rev. and Nona Grady

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Colors for the Christian Year

Blue, a color of hope, may be used during Advent.

Green, a color of growth, is used in the season After the Epiphany and After Pentecost. This is referred to as Ordinary Time.

Purple is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

No Color on Good Friday or through the day Holy Saturday, Easter (Great) Vigil is white or gold.

Red, a color of fire, is used on the Day of Pentecost and

at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also used in evangelistic services, ordinations and consecrations, anniversaries and homecomings, Martin Luther King Jr. Day or Memorial Day, and during Holy Week, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

White is used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons and for other festive days, such as All Saints, weddings, services of baptism, and services of death and resurrection.



Published by Abingdon Press

SAVE THE DATE...

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch at Faith

2/2, noon, Sandwiching Tour at Faith UMC

2/9, 6:30pm, Parent's Night Out

2/10, 5pm, Valentine Dinner

2/14, 6pm, Ash Wednesday Service

2/20, 1:00pm, UMW

6:30pm, Administrative Board

2/21, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (1)

2/28, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (2)

3/7, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (3)

3/14, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (4)

3/21, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (5)

3/28, noon, Lenten Lunch-In (6)

3/29, 6pm, Maundy Thursday Service

Communion and United Methodists

Holy Communion is a sacrament. The word *sacrament* comes from a Latin word for *vow* or *promise* and a Greek word for *mystery*. Sacraments are ritual practices that connect us to the mystery of God's love and grace and call us to respond in faith. While there are many ways of opening to the love and grace of God, United Methodists recognize two rituals as sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. These are the only two practices that Jesus specifically commands in the Gospels (see Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 22:14-21). Baptism is our welcome to the family of Christ; Holy Communion sustains and nourishes us on our journey of faith.

Holy Communion is the meal of bread and drink (cup) shared by the family of Christ that opens us to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit and reminds us of Christ's sacrifice in giving up his body and shedding his blood to show us the way of freedom and eternal life. It nourishes and sustains us as we seek to live as faithful disciples (followers) of Christ. It is a body of Christ in and for the world.

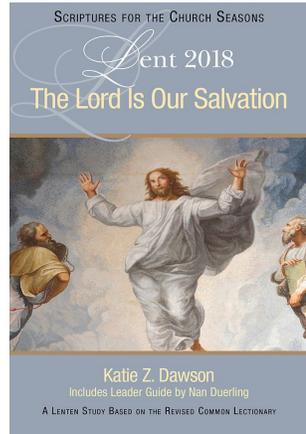
Cokesbury—Resources for the Christian Journey



Lenten Study on Sunday Mornings

During the Lenten Season, Sunday School Classes will have joint meetings in Fellowship Hall. Beginning Sunday, February 18, at 9:45am, anyone interested in the study may plan to attend. Please sign up at the FYI table so Teresa Cozart may purchase a study guide for you. The price is \$5 for *The Lord is Our Salvation—Lent 2018*, by Katie Dawson. Classes will meet each Sunday through April 1, Easter Sunday. The lessons will be led by

Virginia McCastlain and Anita Rutt. Questions, contact Teresa Cozart.



December Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
12/3	59	\$ 5,303
12/10	72	3,431
12/17	66	12,387
12/24	70	<u>5,461</u>
		\$29,007

Renovation Fund	\$13,520
Noisy Offering	124

Lenten Lunch-In, each Wednesday during Lent

Beginning Wednesday, February 21st and going through March 28th, a mini Worship Service will be held at noon under the direction of Bro. David. The service will begin in the sanctuary and will last approximately 30 minutes. Lunch, in Fellowship Hall, will follow the service. The

light lunch will be prepared by volunteers who sign up at the FYI table.

Think about making a commitment during the Lenten season to attend the Wednesday devotionals at Faith UMC. Enjoy the service, visit with friends during lunch, and be reminded of the

reason for this solemn time. Bring a friend or neighbor. There is always room for one more.

Two Special Night Services to be Held

Join us at 6pm, Wednesday, Feb. 14, for our **Ash Wednesday Service** at Faith UMC. Ash Wednesday is always celebrated on a Wednesday seven weeks prior to Easter Sunday and the Day after Mardi Gras. For Christians, the day marks the first day of Lent and the starting of 6 weeks of fasting and penance.

Ashes will be ceremonially placed on the foreheads of Christians marked as a visible cross on Ash Wednesday.

The **Maundy Thursday Service** will be held Thursday, March 29, at 6pm at Geyer Springs UMC. Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is a Christian

observance in the United States. It is the day before Good Friday and takes place during Holy Week. It commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper and the initiation of Holy Communion (the Eucharist), is observed in many Christian churches.

2018 Administrative Board

- Allen, Ben
 - Barnes, Trinette
 - Bristow, Harold (Chairman)
 - Brummett, Jerry
 - Eubanks, Carolyn
 - Horton, Gary
 - McCastlain, Virginia
 - McCloskey, Ellen
 - Noe, Dianna
 - Rutt, Robert
 - Ryan, Ginny
 - Smith, Brenda
-

February, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> , Alzheimer's Arkansas (caregivers) Lunch & Learn RSVP 224-0021	<i>2</i> <u>Noon</u> , Sandwiching Tour of Faith UMC	<i>3</i> *Those who are ill
<i>4</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School, <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Communion, Worship Service	<i>5</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<i>8</i> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> , Sr. Networking (agencies)	<i>9</i> <u>6:30-9:30pm.</u> , Parent's Night Out	<i>10</i> <u>5:00 p.m.</u> , Valentine Dinner, all invited, dona- tions accepted *Those who search for jobs
<i>11</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service Transfiguration Sunday	<i>12</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>13</i> Mardi Gras	<i>14</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Ash Wed. Service	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> *Caregivers
<i>18</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Lenten Study <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service	<i>19</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>20</i> <u>1:00 p.m.</u> , UMW meeting <u>6:30 p.m.</u> , Administrative Board Meeting	<i>21</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<i>22</i> <u>11:00 p.m.</u> , Cure PSP	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> *Students and teachers
<i>25</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Lenten Study <u>11a.m.</u> , Worship Service	<i>26</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes/Bring your lunch <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice			*Please pray for those listed above.

Scripture:

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

—1 Peter 4:9-10