

March, 2018

Faith Calls...

Pastor's Thoughts

Reverend David Hoffman, Sr. Pastor (501)475-6397

Office@Faithumc-lr.org (e-mail)

www.faithumc-lr.org (website)

A Successful Lenten Discipline

Birthdays

3/4, Janice Heerboth
3/8, Allan Young
3/14, Shannon Green
3/23, Imogene Pollock
3/25, Agnes Sharp
3/26, Jerry Brummett

Inside this issue:

Pack Shack Feeds the AR Hungry	2
Do You Want to Fast This Lent?	2
Order Easter Lilies	3
Instructions for Listening to God	3
Lenten Lunch-Ins and Maundy Thursday Service	3
January Stats	3
March Calendar	4
Scripture	4

Lent is a discipline. You are asked to change yourself to become more focused and intentional in your devotional habits (reading scripture, studying, and prayer) and improve your spirituality. That takes real discipline. Not because I think you are bad, but because such disciplined habits are not a part of our regular routine. When you intentionally invest the time and energy in a project, the result should be an improvement in performance. In the case of devotional discipline, the result is a better relationship with God.

This is my annually repeated caution about sacrificing for Lent: If you give something up that saves you time, spend the extra time in devotion or in service. If your sacrifice gives you extra money, give it to charity. If what you give up does not result in greater devotion or service, you missed the mark. Please try again.

Our relationship with God should not be seen solely as existing on a high mountaintop. God exists in all the places of the earth, high and low,

good or evil. If that is where you are, God will meet you there. Treat the relationship much as you should do with those closest to you on earth, with honesty, openness respect, and love. Be ready for a response that might be what you need to hear rather than what you want to hear.

You might use this time to clear up something you have been wondering about for a while. There is nothing wrong in admitting you did not understand a particular event in scripture, just tell God, "I don't get it." You might also ask, "Why?" If things seem in conflict, ask for clarification. If you're angry, admit it.

The open exchange in our relationship with God is meant to improve you. John Wesley called his people to be constantly "going on toward perfection." To become a Christian and then do nothing to grow in faith and understanding is like standing in the foyer of a mansion you have bought, but never leaving the foyer or entering a single room of the mansion. Go on in!

Explore all the rooms! Enjoy the house!

Unfortunately, many will drop these new habits and revert back to their old ways. Don't be an easy quit. Make the effort to continue your new habits so you can continue to improve your faith. Every forward effort is worthwhile even if it is not completely successful. God will continue to provide sanctifying grace throughout your journey. All you need to do is keep going.

If you're stumped for a Lenten sacrifice this year, I invite you to follow my lead. I am giving up beets and turnip greens. I wasn't going to eat them anyway, but it reminds me that I always have a little extra time for devotion and service, and money to give to help others.

Shalom,

Bro. David



Pack Shack Feeds the Arkansas Hungry

REMINDER:

9:45am each Sunday morning, join us in Fellowship Hall for our Lenten Study, *The Lord is Our Salvation—Lent 2018.*

All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE...

Each Monday, 10am, Prayer Watch

Each Wed. in March, noon, Lenten Lunch-Ins with worship & light lunch

3/9, 6:30pm, Parent's Night Out

3/11, Daylight Saving Time begins

3/17, 5pm, Baked Potato Supper

3/18, following Worship Service is "Feed the Funnel" for Pack Shack

3/20, 6:30pm, Administrative Board

3/25, Palm Sunday

3/27, 1:00pm, UMW

3/29, 6pm, Maundy Thursday Service at Geyer Springs UMC

3/30, Good Friday (office closed)

3/31, 10:30am, Easter Egg Hunt

4/1, Easter Sunday

We have had a successful fundraiser at Faith UMC. We have collected over \$3,000 to help feed the hungry. With this money we will be able to prepare over 13,000 meals for those in need.

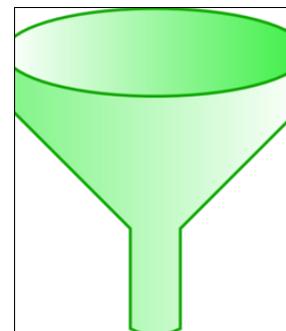
With the help of Pack Shack volunteers, our "Feed the Funnel Party" will take place at Faith on March 18, following the Worship Service. We will gather with the necessary items to complete our project. We will need your help.

In our work area on party day, you will find the assembly line which includes: funnels (where

ingredients are poured into a funnel to fill a bag), scales (where bags are weighed for accuracy), heat scales (where bags are sealed), and boxes (where the bags are put into cases). For those with allergies, please know that some of the products to be packed contain wheat, corn, dairy products, or soy.

As in all food industries, please refrain from wearing jewelry. Hair nets are required and are furnished. Five men are needed to help with loading of boxes before and after the party.

We will have areas where some may work from their chairs, so



please do not shy away because of abilities to stand. We can use everyone.

Marlyn Burrow has chaired this project and we are grateful to her and the efforts she has put into making this a success. Let's sign-up to help ASAP so that Marlyn will be able to finalize plans for this special day.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

—In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



This is your Lenten Gift Box. Take one home and during the 40 days of Lent place a coin in it each day. On Easter Sunday, bring your gift box forward during the serving of Communion. Your contribution, part of the Lenten Discipline, reminds you to support the ministries of the church.

Order Easter Lilies

March 1-16 is the designated time to order Easter lilies in honor or memory of loved ones. Each potted lily is \$12. These will be placed in the chancel area Easter morning and you may take yours home following the Easter Worship Service on April 1. Be sure that you complete the order form and place it in the offering plate.

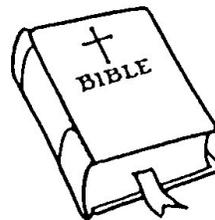
For the Christian, the Easter lily is used in a positive sense and represents many things. The

Easter lily is representative of Christ's resurrection, it speaks of purity and innocence, being untainted by the world. The Easter lily also represents a new season, a new birth, such as when one comes to Christ.



Instructions for Listening to God

1. Silence your environment
2. Silence your body to listen to your words
3. Silence your words to listen for your thoughts
4. Silence your thoughts to listen to your heart
5. Silence your heart to listen to your spirit
6. Silence your spirit to listen to God's Holy Spirit



January Stats

Date	Worship	Gen. Fund
1/7	52	\$ 4,613
1/14	60	2,045
1/21	54	2,506
1/28	62	<u>1,109</u>
		\$10,273

Renovation Fund \$ 470
Noisy Offering 81

Administrative Board

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

Lenten Lunch-Ins and Maundy Thursday Service

Don't forget...Each Wed. in Lent at noon, we are having a mini Worship Service in the sanctuary followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall. The weekly series is about giving up things for Lent. Week one focused on "Control". Plan to learn on the 28th about "Expectations".

Join us at 6pm, Thursday, March 29, at Geyer Springs UMC for the Maundy Thursday Service under the direction of Bro. David.

This is a Christian observance the day before Good Friday and takes place during Holy Week. It

commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper. The serving of Holy Communion (the Eucharist), will be observed.



March, 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>	<i>3</i> *students, teachers, school staff members
<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>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<i>8</i> <u>11:30 a.m.</u> , Sr. Networking (agencies)	<i>9</i> <u>6:30-9:30p.m.</u> , Parent's Night Out	<i>10</i> *those who are troubled and turn toward violence
<i>11</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Sunday School <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i>	<i>12</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <u>5:00 p.m.</u> , BAKED POTATO SUPPER *our leaders
<i>18</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Lenten Study <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Worship Service with Pack Shack to follow	<i>19</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>20</i> <u>6:30 p.m.</u> , Administrative Board Meeting	<i>21</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<i>22</i> <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Cure PSP	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> *those who hurt
<i>25</i> <u>9:45 a.m.</u> , Lenten Study <u>11:00 a.m.</u> , Palm Sun. Worship Service	<i>26</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Prayer Watch Ministry at Faith or wherever you are	<i>27</i> <u>1:00 p.m.</u> , UMW meeting	<i>28</i> <u>10:00 a.m.</u> , Dominoes <u>Noon</u> , Lenten Lunch-In <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Choir Practice	<i>29</i> <u>6:00 p.m.</u> , Maundy Thursday Service at Geyer Springs	<i>30</i> <i>Good Friday</i> Office closed	<i>31</i> <u>10:30 a.m.</u> , EGG HUNT *Please pray for those listed above.

Scripture:

Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

—Galatians 6:10