



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Red Lion United Methodist Newsletter

March 2019

To Serve God, Christ's Church and the Community: Proclaiming Salvation To All.
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Lent...What am I going to give up this year? Do I really want to give up anything? Will this be there year I make it all the way?

Maybe a better question for Lent is...What can I do so I focus every day on the reason for season of Lent?

So what is the focus of Lent?

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts.

On the United Methodist website it defines Lent as:

“Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally ‘turn around’ and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.”

What is the focus...realign our lives and focus toward God.

We should be looking forward to this time of the Christian season.

So if you are looking at giving up something ask yourself how is this going to help me realign my life and focus on God? Maybe instead of giving up something you may want to consider giving something towards building a stronger relationship with God through time, study and service.

- Spend time in conversation during some extra prayer time
- Join in on the Lenten Study on Saturday mornings
- Do a Lenten devotional
- Serve at one of the Mission Dinners
- Participate in the 40 days – 40 items Lenten project
- Or whatever will help you grow closer to God and realign your life to be reflect Christ.

You may be surprised at the end of Lent that you have developed a new habit that you want to continue throughout the whole year to continue to grow closer to God..

Shine the light of Christ out on everyone you meet everywhere you go.

Pastor Sandy

40 DAYS – 40 ITEMS

This year we have added a twist – you have three options.

What's the same? Each day you “give up” one item to help in the ministry of Christ.

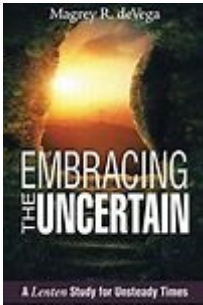
40 Days

40 Items

What's different? You have your choice of items. Each day put in one item in the choice you decide on for the 40 days:

1. Clothing, blankets, etc. - trash bags available to put in item from your belongings that you no longer use. This will go to Over-the-Rhine ministry that the Gregg family goes down to serve.
2. Cans or non-perishable food – a reusable grocery bag is available for you to drop in an item a day. This will go to the Franklin Food Pantry.
3. Coins – a coin bag is available so that you can put a coin a day in it. This will go to help our homeless missions.

On Easter morning bring in your items, we will bless them for the use in service of our Lord. Then distribute them to the various ministries.



LENTEN STUDY

“Embracing the Uncertain”

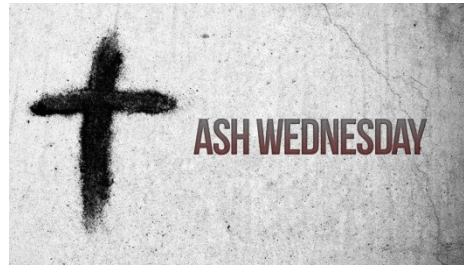
Learn to engage and wrestle with life’s

uncertainties this Lenten season.

Just turning on the news lets us know we are living in uncertain times. Economic instabilities, eruptions of violence, and natural catastrophes can alter the lives and landscapes of entire communities. Our individual lives are often just as unsteady: relationships can break, plans can falter, and confidence can fail.

The reality is that in our fast-changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees in life. It’s those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and make the risky decision to follow Jesus despite the many “unknowns” who will reap the greatest rewards.

Join us this Lent to engage and wrestle with life’s uncertainties, not ignore them. Each of these stories are signposts in the gospel narrative, pointing down at a world filled with uncertainty, but pointing us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, hope, and obedience.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Focusing on both themes helps us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This year we have two opportunities.

Drive Through Ashes

Date: Wed., March 6
Time: 5:00—6:00 pm
Place: Red Lion UMC parking lot

This is an outreach program that encourages busy people to take even a quick moment to reflect on the day. Bob will be outside praying and dispensing ashes for anyone that drives through or walks up. A prayer will be given to everyone.

Ash Wednesday service

Date: Wed., Mar. 6
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Hope UMC

This year we will join Hope UMC. Pastor Johnny will be officiating.

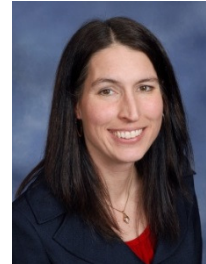
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Every Sunday
11:00 AM

Our doors are open to all!

Mar. 3....Transfiguration Sunday

Guest Preacher



The Ohio River Valley UMC Assistant District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, will be preaching using

Luke 9:28-36. Her sermon title is “Eavesdropping.”

Lent/Easter Sermon Series Mar. 9-April 20 Embracing the Uncertain

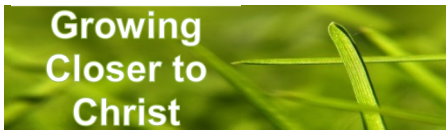
Join us as we explore the beliefs of our faith.

- ◆ March 10 - The Desperate Father and the Uncertainty of Faith – Mark 9:14-20
- ◆ March 17 - Peter and the Uncertainty of Forgiveness – Matthew 18:21-22
- ◆ March 24 - The Crowd and the Uncertainty of Worry – Luke 12:1-34 (22-34)
- ◆ March 31 - Lazarus and the Uncertainty of Mortality – John 11:1-44
- ◆ April 7 - Zacchaeus and the Uncertainty of Surrender – Luke 19:1-10
- ◆ April 14 (Palm Sunday) - Jesus and the Uncertainty of Obedience – Matthew 26:36-46
- ◆ April 20 (Easter Sunday) - The Empty Tomb and the Proof of the Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)

Post General Conference Simulcast Saturday March 2 @ 10am ORV Watch Sites: Mason UMC, Faith Community, Epiphany UMC

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will host a simulcast at the conference office on Saturday, March 2 at 10am in response to the actions of the special session of General Conference which will be held in late February. All interested West Ohioans are welcome to participate. Learn more via West Ohio's website www.westohioumc.org.

The simulcast will be recorded and posted to the conference website by Sunday, March 3. Additional information will continue to be posted via the conference website.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Date: Every Sunday
Time: 10:00 AM

Everyone welcome!

Come and join our lively, spirit-led discussions which are based on scripture.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Date: Every Sunday
Time: After Children's Moments in Worship

Children's Church (ages 5-10) includes a bible lesson and fun activities (these may include crafts, singing, games).

YOUTH GATHERING

Date: 1st Sunday of each month
Time: 12:30 pm

**All Youth Welcome
(Grade 6 and up)**

Lunch provided.

Bible study, fun and fellowship.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
(UMW)**

Date: 3rd Monday of each month
Time: 11:00 a.m.

You are invited to join the UMW for an morning of bible study, prayer and service.



If you know someone who could benefit from receiving an encouraging word via a card, please let Norma know.

**COMMUNITY SUNDAY
DINNER**

Date: Sun., March 11
Time: 5:30 PM

Since this is a Sunday during Lent, we have decided to have a "fish fry."



Fun and games after dinner will be a "March Madness" theme.

Come and enjoy! Invite your neighbors, friends, family or anyone that would enjoy a meal, some fun and some fellowship.

AA MEETING

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 7:30-8:30 PM

Contact Information:

Mike Tracy
Home: 513-932-0538
Cell: 513-850-4633

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, and apolitical. There are no age or education requirements. Open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

**SANTUARY ACCESS
PROJECT CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN**

Work is underway. Pastor Sandy has been temporarily moved into the Small Administrative Office.

Although we will receive some help through a grant from the district. It will not cover the full cost.

Please prayerfully consider what your donation/pledge can be to make our Sanctuary accessible to all.



ORV TEACHING TUESDAYS

12:30 am OR 6:00 PM

ORV District Office, Blue Ash

March 5: Good Samaritan Crime Victim Sensitivity Training with Reba Collins

March 19: Communications Open House/Workshop with Nick Federinko

March 26: Creating Space for Ministry by Persons with Disabilities

See Pastor Sandy if you are interested.

Rebekah Simon-Peter Webinar

Friday, March 1st at 1 PM EST. Are you ready to move forward in your ministry?

Join us for a free webinar: Does Your Church Dream Like Jesus?

To register and reserve your space in the webinar email: rebekah@rebekahsimonpeter.com

MISSIONS - SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS

MISSION BINS:

We have bins that you can help various missions by dropping off donations any time. Some of these bins change depending upon the time of the year. Please check calendar for this month's collection.



MARCH TO MISSION

For January, we collected for Heifer Project and Jesus Kids. Thank you for your generosity.

For March 3 & 10, "**Jesus Kids Mission**" educates and feeds the

poorest of the poor children in the city of Agbor in Nigeria and surrounding areas. The school population is 300 with about 100 orphans. We have supported Pastor Louis for many years.



For March 17, 24, 31: **Disaster Relief Fund Through UMCOR** (Special Advance Fund).

TOGETHER, WE REACH CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DEVASTATION IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER.

When disaster strikes so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

MISSION DINNER

Date: 2nd, 4th & 5th Tues. each month

Time: 2:30 OR 4:30 PM

Place: Franklin UMC

Serving hot dinners to anyone in the community...you can help by...



1. **Praying!** (names in the bulletin)
2. **Helping set up:** between 2:30-4:30 pm
3. **Helping serve:** 4:30-6:00 pm
4. **Bring supplies for the dinner or donate and we will do the shopping.** Check the monthly calendar or Fellowship Hall Mission board for what is needed.

IHN DINNER

Ending homelessness one family at time.

Date: Sat., Mar. 30

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Springboro UMC

Join us as we serve and have some fellowship with IHN families that are being hosted by Springboro UMC.

Volunteer to:

- help cook a meal,
- help serve a meal,
- play with children,
- share time with parents.

Sign up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Ask Bonnie or Pastor Sandy if you have any questions

Interfaith Hospitality Network mission is to provide meals, hospitality, and support for homeless families.



WORK AROUND THE CHURCH



There are various maintenance projects, including Sanctuary Access Project, that need to be done in the church and around the church grounds. If you are interested in helping, check with Jamie or Rick