

THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2017

ASHES

I was not raised in a faith tradition where Ash Wednesday was observed. Southern Baptists don't do ashes. But when I entered seminary and joined the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), I was introduced to this holy day on the church calendar and have been enamored of it ever since.

I attribute my infatuation to the fact that Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent in general, belong solely to the church. Our modern consumer culture hasn't coopted Ash Wednesday in the same way it has other religious holidays. To me, at least, this makes it pure, honest and real.

Furthermore, Ash Wednesday is a day in which we proclaim the unvarnished truth about who we are as human beings. We are flawed. We are finite. We are dust. This truth doesn't diminish us. It simply places our existence in its proper context. We are the created. God is the Creator. The ashes help us remember.

This Wednesday evening I will stand at the front of the sanctuary, my right index finger covered in ash, and impose the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those who choose to approach. I will look into the eyes of each person and say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." True words. Honest words. Words that signify we are nothing ... and everything. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm

All are invited to attend this mid-week worship service that marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The service will include responsive readings, scripture, a pastoral meditation, and the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday occurs forty days before Easter, not including six Sundays (which are considered feast days), and recalls the Israelites' forty years in the desert and Jesus' forty days in the wilderness prior to his public ministry.

OPEN TABLE DINNER

Monday, March 6th at 5:00 pm

Monday, March 20th at 5:00 pm

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated at this free community meal to serve food, clean-up, and provide desserts. Sign-up sheets for both dates in March are located on the hallway bulletin board. Also, please note that we are in need of cooks throughout the year. Contact Pastor Lee if you are interested.



SERVING IN MARCH

DEACONS

Brenda Jordan

Jack Jordan

Samantha Condra

Rodger Hoffman

Diane Hoffman

Missy Stephans

Kylie Crawford

Preparing Communion: Caroline Griffin

ELDERS

05—Karen Davidenkoff (B) & Dawn Crawford (C)

12—Ruth Proctor (B) & Bryan Condra (C)

19—Joe Bradley (B) & Gary Jacobi (C)

26—Karen Crockett (B) & Donna Poe (C)

YCM LEADERS

Sunday School K-4 Donna Nash

Junior Church Pre-K Rachel Stephans

Junior Church K-6 Dawn Crawford

PARK BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, March 8th at 6:00 pm

The Park Book Club will reconvene on the second Wednesday of March to read and discuss a new selection, *Grounded*, by Diana Butler Bass. Bass is the author of nine books on American religion and is a regular commentator on religion, politics, and culture for media outlets nationwide. Copies of *Grounded* are available for \$10. Please contact Pastor Lee if you are interested.

ST. PATRICK'S LUNCH

Sunday, March 19th at 12:00 pm

Following worship on Sunday, March 19th, everyone is invited to stay for our annual St. Patrick's Lunch featuring delicious baked potatoes. We will need some volunteers to help serve and clean-up as well as folks to bring sides and desserts. A sign-up sheet is located on the hallway bulletin board. Don't forget to wear something green!

ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING

Monday, March 20th at 6:30 pm

On the third Monday of March, the elders and deacons will meet at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary for their second worship and training session of 2017. The focus of this session will be the nature and impact of change in congregational life. If you have any questions or will be unable to attend, please contact Pastor Lee.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS: 3—Mary Lou Tindle, 8—Becky Wise, 11—Karen Crockett, 21—Tom Akers, 24—Sherri Akers, 25—Joe Brooks, Marilyn Lemmon, Bill Longest, 28—Keith Fenwick

ANNIVERSARIES: 28—Don & Mary Murray, 29—Chad & Kim Condra

March 2017

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	2 9:00 am Blessings in a Backpack	3 9:00 am Zumba	4
5 LENT 1 2:00 pm Autumn Woods Worship Service	6 5:00 pm Open Table Dinner	7 6:00 pm Zumba	8 6:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm Choir Practice	9 9:00 am Blessings in a Backpack	10 9:00 am Zumba	11 9:30 am Prayer Blanket Ministry
12 LENT 2 Daylight Saving Time Begins	13	14 6:00 pm Zumba	15 6:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm Choir Practice	16 9:00 am Blessings in a Backpack	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 9:00 am Zumba 12:15 pm Gathering & Sharing at Hope	18
19 LENT 3 12:00 pm St. Patrick's Lunch	20 5:00 pm Open Table Dinner 6:30 pm Elder & Deacon Meeting	21 6:00 pm Zumba	22 6:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Chimes Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	23 9:00 am Blessings in a Backpack	24 9:00 am Zumba	25 7:00 am Lenten Men's Break- fast at FKCC *Fellowship Hall Reserved
26 LENT 4	27	28 6:00 pm Zumba	29 6:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm Chimes Practice 7:30 pm Choir Practice	30 9:00 am Blessings in a Backpack	31 9:00 am Zumba 6:00 pm YCM Lock-In	