

Circuit *Writer*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ERLANGER UNITED METHODIST | MARCH 2017

FROM THE PASTOR.....

We have heard a lot about “fake news” these days. I think there is another category for news as well - unimportant news! There are so many things the media puts out that are just not important. A lot of it is Hollywood gossip or the like. I am amazed at how much of it is out there. I see it and I think, “Who on earth cares!”

I was looking through some of this insignificant news recently - a list of women who are billionaires. It showed a picture and 8 or 10 sentences of how much they were worth and how they came into their money. Virtually all of them were born into their money, and while I’m sure many of them also work hard and contribute well to their upkeep - and several even contribute well to the world, the article itself was only trying to say, “Look at rich people and how beautiful they are.”

It’s not really fake news, because I’m sure it was **ACCURATE**, but it was deceptive in the idea that these women (probably 25 or so of them) were more valuable and beautiful than most of us. In so many ways we measure worth and beauty in fake ways.

A whole lot of what Lent is about is getting re-acquainted with who we all really are and our value in this world. But we measure that in God’s economy, not the world’s. That makes a huge difference. It’s a time of repentance, something which rich and poor alike need to do. It’s a time of understanding God’s great love for us - which comes no

matter what our economic status. And it's a time to cling to the cross of Christ, on which he died for all. The New Testament is full of stories like the Rich Young Ruler and the Ethiopian Eunuch. They were both wealthy people but responded very differently to the message of the Gospel. The New Testament is also full of stories about the widow and her mite and the poorest of the poor. Jesus Christ offered abundant life to all, and the abundance of life is not dependent upon earthly wealth, rather on a positive response to the message of the Gospel.

Repentance and sacrifice is a key element of that response. At our Ash Wednesday service we will be focusing on that. Each week during Lent we will be looking at different people who lived in the shadow of the cross and how they were faced with the message of the cross, their own value as a human being, their need for repentance and the redemptive power of Christ. I hope that challenges you to see your place in this world and your value to God as well.

Come join us for Lenten worship and Bible Study. Join us in HEARING the Gospel, and also in LIVING OUT the Gospel in every day ways. We would love to see you at church, but more importantly, we want to help you grow in love and grace as we move to the victory of Easter.

God bless!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SPRC NEWS

At the February SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) meeting we voted to recommend that our pastor be returned to us for another year. Most of you know that pastors in the United Methodist Church are assigned to each church for a one year term – generally from July 1 to June 30. Each year the Bishop and the Cabinet of our Kentucky Conference ask for recommendations from each church about whether their pastor should be re-assigned for another year, and also from the pastor about whether they would like to return to the church. Generally, as long as the church and the pastor are both happy with the assignment, things do not change. This year both the SPRC and the Pastor have both requested to have the appointment stay the same. The Bishop and Cabinet usually meet in the spring to make these decisions for churches across the whole state of Kentucky. They will make their appointments and then release them to the public – generally in early to mid April. The appointment will not be finalized until then, but we have no reason to think there will be a change in our church's appointment. We will keep you posted and announce when this is finalized.

March Birthday's

Carol Kiefer	03/01
Henry Robert Martin	03/08
Megan Pope	03/04
Wilma LaBare	03/05
Sue Maynard	03/06
Karen Christiansen	03/10
Kaelan Townsend	03/11
Connie Hoffrogge	03/16
Brooke Alexander	03/22
Mardelle Dickhaut	03/23
Bill Slaven	03/23
Paul Swanson	03/24
Kara McPeters	03/27

March Anniversaries

Chuck & Anna Love	03/03
Bill & Melissa Howard	03/10
Chris & Jackie McPeters	03/10
Tim & Carrie Herrmann	03/11
Ken & Sue Maynard	03/23

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To straighten the church and restock pew supplies. This is an every other week commitment. Call the church office or see Martha Ashcraft for more information.

WHY ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY?

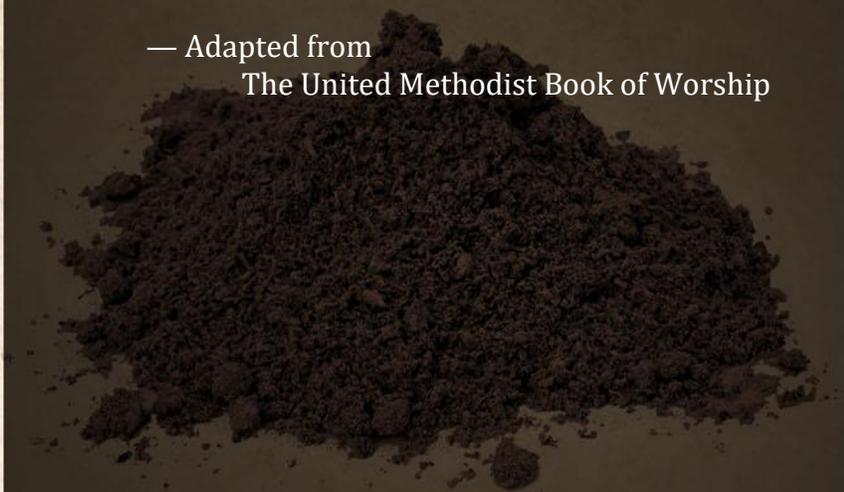
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

— Adapted from
The United Methodist Book of Worship



FEBRUARY 2017

Tithes	\$15,938.00
Sunday School	\$57.00
Loose Plate	\$194.25
GECDG	\$9,106.01
Upper Room	\$9.00

GENERAL FUND

TOTAL \$25,304.26

Memorials	\$25.00
Miscellaneous	\$222.00
Reimbursements	\$285.00
UCV	\$2.00
Women in Mission	\$447.00
Youth	\$135.00
Zimmerman's	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$1,011.78

SPECIAL GIFTS

TOTAL \$2,350.78

Emmaus Emergency	\$35.00
Emmaus Various Proj.	\$68.00
Emmaus Zimmerman	\$49.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$26.00
Laws	\$10.00
Manna Mission	\$25.00

GRAND TOTAL \$27,655.04

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Previously known as One Great Hour Of Sharing, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

Mar 12, 2017 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 12, 2017, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned forward 1 hour to Sunday, March 12, 2017, 3:00:00 am local daylight time instead. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 12, 2017 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.

Do you like kids? Were you once a kid? Do you want to act like a kid? You are in luck, cause we need more help in Children's Church, this would be a once month commitment, for more information about coloring during church see Kelly Lusk



February

Children's Ministry

Upcoming Events – March 15th, Easter Basket Build / Craft – 6:00 pm at the Church
April 15th, Easter Egg Hunt

A big thank you to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child, we sent \$516.00 to purchase shoeboxes and help with shipping.

From the Erlanger United Methodist Men

Hi Folks.

Our next fundraiser of 2017 will be the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Children under 6 are free. The menu consists of Spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and drink.



Thanks again for your participation in the Soup/Sandwich Lunch in January. Here are some photos from that event.



The next UMM District Meeting is Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Canned goods update for the United Christian Volunteers. Thru February 24, 2017, 1062 food items have been delivered. Emphasis in March 2017 is on "Toiletries/Food Items". Our goal for 2017 is 7,000 food items. There are many folks in the local area that can't afford enough food for their families. Your support has gone a long way in helping this cause. Thank you. Whatever you bring will be greatly appreciated.

We would like to invite all men to join the Erlanger United Methodist Men. Our next meeting is March 11, 2017, Saturday, 3:00 pm, at Erlanger UMC in the Asbury Room, right before the Spaghetti Dinner.

Thank you and GOD Bless you all.

[The mission of the General Commission on United Methodist Men is to assist men to know Jesus Christ, to serve Him, to grow spiritually and seek daily to do His will.](#)



YOUTH GROUP

Winter Jam 2017

The Youth group had a wonderful time at Winter Jam. For \$10, they saw a show that lasted about 4 hours. Some of the artists were Crowder, Britt Nicole, Tenth Avenue North, Sadie Robertson, Thousand Foot Krutch. Andy Mineo, Colton Dixon, Newsong, Tony Nolan, OBB, Sarah Reeves, and Steven Malcolm.

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Give up complaining -

Focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism -

Become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgments -

Think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry -

Trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement -

Be full of hope.

Give up bitterness -

Turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred -

Return good for evil.

Give up negativism -

Be positive.

Give up anger -

Be more patient.

Give up pettiness -

Become mature.

Give up gloom -

Enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Give up jealousy -

Pray for trust

Give up gossiping -

Control your tongue.

Give up sin -

Turn to virtue.

Give up giving up -

Hang in there!

WOMEN IN MISSION PLUS

News and Updates

Ida Spence Mission “Take Home Meal”

Each year Ida Spence request our District churches to sign up to do a “take home meal” the last Saturday of the month. Our date is April 29th, this year. This is a church wide mission event. In recent years we have done this in the Fall, so with this earlier date, we need to start preparing now. Mark your calendars.

We are planning to prepare 400 meals. Lots of volunteers will be needed to purchase, prepare, assemble, and hand out meals.

We also distribute laundry detergent. Around 150 containers are needed - any brands will do, 25 to 35 loads. Place in green tub in the Home Street vestibule. If you wish to donate a dollar or two, we will order several cases. Mark donations “laundry detergent”.

We are collection large shopping / grocery bags with handles to put the “take home meals” in. A bin is on the desk in the vestibule for them.

We received a generous donation of bags from First Watch in Crestview Hills. With only a few more bags we should have enough in this collection.

Thank you for your support and help with this event.

Kitchen Shower Themed collections

The Fellowship Hall kitchen could use some new and gently used kitchen supplies. Items include: pot holders, towels, sponges, scour pads, Dobie, 8’ and 10’ heavy plastic bowls, glass cutting board. Place in mission drawer 6-7.

If you wish to donate a dollar or two, for the kitchen please mark your donations “kitchen”.

WIM’s next meeting in March 2nd at 11:00 am we invite women of our church to join our group.

Women In Mission shall function as an organized ministry of Erlanger United Methodist Church women. Our purpose is to share God’s love through cooperative efforts that lend support to local, state, and global missions.

March 2017

Wed	1	12:00 p	Caring Team
		7:00 p	Ash Wednesday Service
Thur	2	11:00 a	Women In Mission
Sun	5	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth
Mon	6	7:00 p	SPRC
Tue	7	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	8	10:30 a	Children's Chapel
		7:00 p	Choir Practice
Thur	9	6:00 p	Prayer Group
Sat	11	2:15 p	UMM Devotional Lesson
		3:00 p	UMM Meeting
		5:00 p	UMM Spaghetti Dinner
Sun	12	Daylight Saving Time Starts	
		9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
		9:15 a	Sunday School
		10:30 a	Worship
		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth
Mon	13	6:15 p	Finance Committee
		7:00 p	Administrative Board
Tue	14	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	15	6:00 p	Children – Easter Basket Build / Craft
		7:00 p	Choir Practice
Sun	19	9:00 a	Communion / Chapel
UCV		9:15 a	Sunday School
FUN-		10:30 a	Worship
draiser		4:30 p	Devotions
		5:30 p	Youth
Mon	20	6:30 p	Trustee
Tue	21	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	22	10:30 a	Children's Chapel
		7:00 p	Choir Practice
Sat	25	5:00 p	Manna Mission Meal
Sun	26	UMCOR Day	
Tue	28	7:00 p	Bible Study
Wed	29	6:00 p	Mission Meeting
		7:00 p	Choir Practice

TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray. Learn about fasting.

9. Start a prayer rhythm.

8. Go deeper into the Bible, join our Bible Study

7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.) Study a book on forgiveness, such as Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey.

6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Give the money you save to help others.

5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.

4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. .

3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice and pray each day with your camera in your hand. Start praying.

2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry.

1. Pray for others you see as you walk as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.

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