

Fairfield Bay United Methodist Church

News & Views

Volume 33 Issue 3

MARCH 2020

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 1

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

2nd Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time

Begins

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-

9

March 15

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 22

4th Sunday in Lent

UMCOR Sunday

(offering)

1 Sam 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 29

5th Sunday in Lent

Ezek 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

What Is Lent Anyway?

I grew up in a part of Arkansas that had a large Catholic population. We had fish on Fridays at school cafeterias and this time of year I'd hear schoolmates talking about what they were giving up for Lent ... usually something like chocolate, though some announced they were giving up caviar or Country & Western concerts or something else they weren't indulging in.

Being a good United Methodist, I never heard about Lent at church. Oh, a couple of my churches changed the paraments to purple, but we never talked about it; I had no idea that it was supposed to mean anything. We didn't sing songs about the blood of Jesus (this was in the 1960s and 1970s—those songs weren't in our hymnal). I never heard about Lent in The United Methodist Church until I entered ministry. I found that Protestant churches were beginning to “celebrate” Lent. Some of them were starting to have Lenten Series and Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services.

So what is Lent anyway?

I thought it was just a season for Catholics to give up something unimportant.

Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. It's traditionally a time for mourning for personal sins. That's why Sundays aren't included—Sundays are for celebrating. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends the evening before Easter.

Understood as mourning for sins, Lent is a 40-day period of partial fasting and self-examination. “Am I ready for the glorious resurrection of Easter?” Easter represents new hope and new life, so we undergo a deep examination of our lives to discover hidden sins and God's direction for us. Based on what God reveals to us, we commit to live a new life in Christ.

Because of the “new life” image, Easter's been a traditional day for baptisms and confessions of faith in Jesus Christ (joining the Church). Confirmation classes are often brought into the church on Easter. So then Lent becomes a time of examination of candidates by church leaders to determine their readiness to take on the great vows of the Church. In The United Methodist Church, we vow to turn from sin, devote ourselves to God, and to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. (continued on page 2)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Jenkins	05
Gwen Scearce	09
Anita James	11
Bertha Christensen	11
Billy Little	13
Charlene Burge	14
Bonnie Hookman	16
Kay Morrow	19
Inge Weaver	23
Susie Jolly	28

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Ruth Krotz	24
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FROM THE TREASURER

2020 Budget **216,459.05**

Expenses Year to Date 34,709.76

Receipts Year to Date 29,168.35

Over or (short) (5,541.41)

This report is thru February 26, not all bills may have been paid.

(continued from page 1)

And then those in the congregation renew their own vows and promise additionally to support one another and especially those joining the church to ensure that they faithfully follow through with their vows. That's a big commitment!

Lent's never been very important to Protestants. It was rejected by the Protestant Reformation. After all, every day is a day of examination for sins and faithful commitment. But maybe we aren't as consistent as we should be. How many times have we made a New Year's Resolution to lose weight, get into shape, treat our spouse better, or read the Bible through the year only to slip back into our old ways after a few days? Gyms are packed in January ... just January.

Maybe we should take Lent seriously. It's March already. Is it time to examine yourself? Have you slipped back into your old ways? Are you ready to make a new commitment?

USHER SCHEDULE

Schedule for March:

1st: Linn & Ken Meseke, Rebecca & Jeff Jenkins and Henry & Charlene Burge

8th: Karen Evans, Barbara McClary and Scott McClary

15th: Bill Bain, Jim & Gail McKnight and Ken & Laurie Beckwith

22nd: Patsy Weidanz, Debra Lutz, Steve & Shirley Sutay, Neva Erickson and Chris Lang

29th: Brenda Smith, Kathy Williamson, Greg & Edie Calaway and Eric Jolly

If you are interested in joining the usher team please call Linn Meseke at 884-6693. Anyone is welcome.

Liturgists for March: Mike McAllister, Gene Christensen, Brenda Smith, Marge Fleischer and Deena McAllister

Communion Servers: Jack & Susan Toyer and Neva Erickson

March Greeters: Debra Lutz

Substitutes: Dixie Lee and Barbara McClary.

FELLOWSHIP TIME FOR MARCH

Greg & Edie Calaway, Ken & Laurie Beckwith and John & Jo Calaway are responsible for fellowship time in March.

SPIRIT GROUP

Spirit Group will not be meeting in March.