

Lent Is Coming! Does It Matter?

When you hear it announced that it is Lent, do you know what is meant? If you do, does it matter to you?

I don't ever remember hearing the word "Lent" when I was growing up in the church. The first time I remember hearing it was in college, and it took me a while to realize how important it was before I understood what it was really all about. I hope that this helps you to understand it better, and that it brings you closer to the Lord this Lenten Season.

Lent is a time of fasting during the 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday. It began as the remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. It is a time of prayer, repentance, sacrifice, and self-denial. The purpose for it was to draw closer to God and to prep one's self for Easter.

This time of Lent has evolved over the years. It has been known as a time of fasting from certain foods; like meat, chocolates, all sweets, candy, or some other food that is desirable. It has also been a time of giving up luxuries in order to live a more simple life during these 40 days. More recently some people have added the giving up of their involvement on technologies, like TV, internet, video games, computer, cell phones, etc. Others have added to the amount of time that they give to serve others, added to the amount of money they give to the church or to missions, or added to the amount of time in prayer or in Bible reading.

The most important part of Lent is your repentance and committing to draw closer to God by changing at least one thing during this time that helps you focus on the Lord each time that you think about what you have committed to do or not do. Ash Wednesday Service is a good way to come to the Lord in repentance for sins that are still weighing you down and in promise of your Lenten commitment for the coming 40 days, as you hold on to the hope of the Resurrection of Christ that will be celebrated at Easter.

Mark 1:13 tells of Jesus' time of fasting in the desert, "And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him."



**Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie Trigg**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 2nd @ 7:00pm - Ash Wednesday Service

April 14th - Maundy Thursday Time of Reflection with Holy Communion

(Times will be announced)

April 15th @ 7:30pm - Good Friday Service

April 17th - Easter Sunday



*Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of
Spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation.
Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.*

The tradition of Lent

*"...a time for focusing on the heart, a time for asking
questions about our spiritual health".*

~Craig R. Higgins



Joys

Answers to prayers!

Javion, 8th grader from NC,

after collapsing during a basketball game & getting a defibrillator, is back in school

Bruce's & Ruthanne's recovery from Covid Signs of Spring! Safe travels

Concerns

Traveling mercies

Church Family and others with Covid and other illnesses

Disaster & Violence victims

Our country & area communities

Health

Church Family and others with Covid and other illnesses

Judy King (Becky's mom) - illness and surgery recovery

Larry A., former Norwayne superintendent - surgery recovery

Ruthie Schumacher

Dick & Dorothy Gillman

Lisa Hartman - health

Pam Hartman - kidney health

Rod Britton's friend CC - health

Lovell, Bruce Lindenmuth's sister - cancer

Tressa S. - Pastor Ruthie's friend - recovery from brain aneurysm

Debbie Baker (& her husband, Rev. David Baker) - stroke recovery & cancer

Pastor Joyce Williams (& Jack) - cancer

Nancy (& Butch) McMillan

Harry & Nancy Britton

Pat Meglich & Robin Kirkhart

Pauline Rastorfer

Rae Smith

Anita (& Don) Vohar - nerve damage in leg

Annibale & Mohr families, Mary Lynn

Melton family - 9 yr. old daughter, terminal brain cancer

Our sympathy to the family & friends of:

Steve Gates, husband of Joan (Gillman) Gates

Grant Hartman, cousin of Pam & Bob Hartman

Dan Duck, Jr., son of Ruthanne Lindenmuth's classmate

Brad Stewart, friend of Robin Kirkhart

Rev. Dr. Steve Sullivan, an East Ohio UM pastor

Nicole Winkler's aunt

Brian Frangos



Fireside Chat



Fireside Chat with the Finance Chair

Dear friends,

As I write this midway through February, our treasurer will be getting ready to write the second payment of our apportionments for the year. We are ever so close to being up to date and I'm sure that by the end of the month we will be. You have been faithful to send your tithes and offerings even if you could not be present in person. The finance committee thanks you for your faithfulness. Pray with us that soon we will all be able to be back together in person each week.

Meanwhile, join us live on Facebook on Sunday mornings or later in the week if you can't do it then. I know I have been blessed by the music of the Praise Team and the Choir as well as Pastor Ruthie's messages in recent weeks.

God Bless,

Martha Baillis, Finance Chairperson

Trustee's Corner



Items since last month:

- Dale & Lydia painted flat black chalkboard & tablets in Preschool Rooms.
Trustee's agree with Admin. Council recommendation to replace church treasurer's 11 year old laptop. Estimate of \$600 to \$1,000, Trustee's agree to split cost with General Fund.
- Devin Webb has been shoveling church sidewalks, Trustee's covering cost.
- Trustee's agree to have Sterling Farm Equipment service church mower, however, could be sometime till we get access to pavilion!

Riddle of the Month



That is easy to get into and hard to get out of?



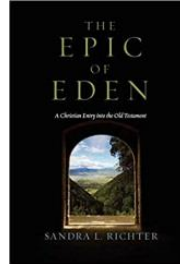
Bible Studies

The men meet on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm led by Pastor Don Trigg. They are currently studying the Book of John.

Come and join in.

The women meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm, and are led in various studies by Betty Winchell and Sara Ullman.

There is always room for more! Be watching for new studies to come.



Currently we are studying The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament by Sandra L. Richter until April 21st.

Pastor Ruthie will lead a group at 10:00 or 10:30am on Thursday for any who prefer a daytime study.



March

6th - Emily Peresie
10th - Kyle Lunter
20th - Sarah Parker
27th - Judy Britton

8th - Joanna Forrer
16th - Bill Hopton
26th - Connie Baillis
31st - Laura Sharp

They know us by our love

Love is the identifying mark of Christianity. In a world of hate, envy, and anger, love sticks out like a healthy thumb. When anyone walks away from an encounter with us, that person should remember our LOVE, not our convictions.

~Rodney Pickett

To my RUMC family, thank you for your thoughts and prayers for me, my mom, and my family during this difficult time. You will never know how much I appreciate it

Thank you
Becky King

The Lord's Laughter

A little girl asked her mother, "Mom, how were people created?"

Her mom replied: "First God made man and woman. Then they had kids. Then their kids grew up and had their own kids. Then their kids grew up and had their own kids. In this way, the numbers of people increased."

Later that day, the little girl went up to her father, and asked: "Dad, how were people created?" The father replied: "First, God made monkeys. Then the monkeys evolved into people."

At the dinner table that night, with both Mom and Dad present, the little girl turned to her Mom and said: "Mom, you lied. Dad said people come from monkeys."

"No dear," Mom replied. "Dad told you about the monkeys in his family. I told you about the people in my family."

~George Goldtrap

Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL



**Sunday, March 13th, 2022 is Daylight Savings Time.
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday,
March 12th, 2022.**

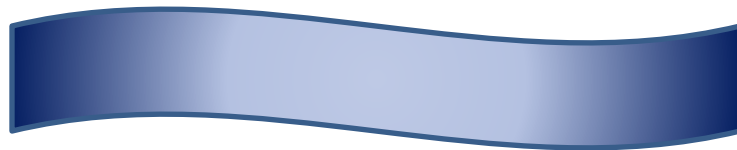


*"The promise of Spring's arrival is enough
to get anyone through the winter".*

~Jen Selinsky



We had a tremendous turnout for our February Food Pantry. We had 21 Families, 79 People (New - 5), and 34 sets given out. Our turnout for the dinner has been low, so it has been decided that for February and March there will be no Community Dinner, but we will have a Drive-Thru Food Pantry. This will continue with our March 16th Food Pantry. They will re-evaluate about having the Community Dinner in April. Please check with Mark Turnbow or Pastor Ruthie about Set-Up each month. We always need help, but times may change for the next few months. Thank you again for everyone who helps setting everything up.



♥ Welcome to
Preschool!

February was a very exciting month for us in the preschool! We had a dental hygienist come in for a visit with the children. She shared with the children how to brush our teeth and floss correctly, what to expect when you go to the dentist, and played a "trivia" game with the children. The children had the opportunity to practice brushing using a LARGE toothbrush and a LARGE model named "Mr. Chompers". When she left, she gave the children a goody bag which contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and some healthy suckers that did not contain sugar.

We also celebrated Valentine's Day with the children. The children decided they wanted to have an ice cream social for their party. What a wonderful idea that was! The children came up with the toppings they wanted and the families provided all that was requested. The children also made Valentine's Day bags and brought in Valentine's Day bags and brought in Valentine's for each of their classmates.

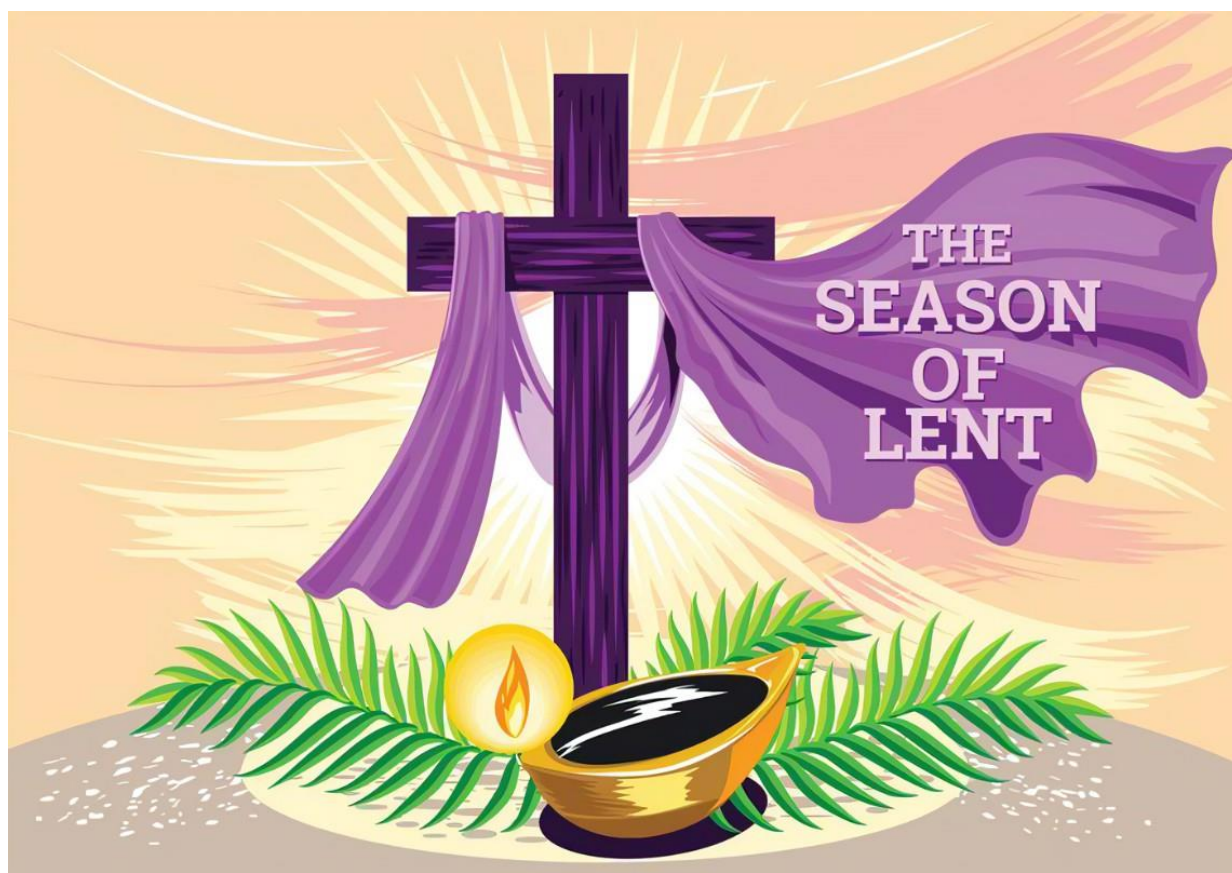
As we look forward to March, we will be having the Akron Zoo Mobile come on March 17th. They will be bringing animals that the children will be able to touch and learn more about (We will be using the Social Hall for this visit). The children are also excited that it is getting closer to spring, especially since we've been having some unusually warm days mixed in with the snowy ones.



Lenten Feasting & Fasting

*Fast from gossip; feast on the Gospels.
Fast from junk food; feast on the Bread of Life.
Fast from bad news; feast on "The Good News".
Fast from darkness; feast on the Light.
Fast from the secular; feast on the sacred.
Fast from despair; feast on hope.
Fast from revenge; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from tears of sorrow; feast on tears of joy.
Fast from getting; feast on giving.
Fast from complexities; feast on simplicities.
Fast from horror; feast on humor.
Fast from listlessness; feast on laughter.*

~Rev. James A. Gillespie



Answer to Riddle:

Trouble