Lent Is Coming, What Does It Mean?

At three, Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani,” which means, “My God, my God, why have you left me?” But Jesus let out a loud cry and died. Mark 15:34, 37 (Common English Bible)

... “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn’t here.... Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.” Mark 16:6, 7 (Common English Bible)

The Christian season of Lent is approaching this month. It begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday. In our United Methodist Book of Worship, Lent is explained as follows:

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word lenten, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden.

Forty days to prepare for what Jesus did for us; forty days to be intentional in our discipline of faith—practicing what we believe. Forty days to confess our sin, seeking to be made right with God, and listening to the Spirit guide us closer to Jesus. One way I will seek to do this is by fasting from dinner on Tuesday night through dinner on Wednesday night. During this weekly fast, I will spend time in prayer confessing my sin and seeking God’s guidance for my life as a follower of Jesus and as your Pastor. I pray that you will join me in this journey of fasting and prayer. During your lunch time on Wednesdays, can you take time to confess your sin, receive God’s forgiveness, and ask God to speak his vision for your life as a follower of Jesus and a part of the First UMC faith community? I believe that this time of fasting and prayer will open us to new adventures and to a closeness to God in Jesus that we have not experienced before. I will be doing my prayer time from 11 am until noon every Wednesday. You are invited to join me at the church, in the Chapel, or to do it on your own. Whatever you decide, I hope you will spend some focused and intentional time this season speaking to and listening to God.

I also pray that you will find time to serve during Lent. You can usher or greet during the months of February and March. You can serve at Fishes & Loaves, stop in the Hope Chest and sort donations, talk to one of our teachers and see how you can help in the classroom. You can serve through the Operation Help food pantry on Wednesdays or the St Marks food pantry on Tuesdays. So many ways you can serve, adding a spiritual discipline to your life for the Lenten season. Whatever you do, I pray the 40 days, from February 14-March 31, will be a time of focused prayer and intentional listening to what God is doing in your midst and how God is calling you to be a part of it as a follower of Jesus.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy

Our mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.
At First UMC Decatur, we do that as we Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love as followers of Jesus Christ.
Lent 2018

REHAB

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 7:00pm

MORTALITY
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday Mornings in Lent
February 18
WILDERNESS
Mark 1:9-15

February 25
INTERVENTION
Mark 8:31-38

March 4
PROGRAM
Exodus 20:1-17

March 11
RECOVERY
John 3:14-18

March 18
PROMISE
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sunday Evening In Lent
February 25, 3:00 pm, Chapel
Service of Prayer & Healing
James 5:13-16

Prayer and Healing Service
Thank You Notes . . .
Thank you so much for the generous gift at Christmas! It is a blessing to worship with you!
Karen Fouts

Many people don’t know the history about the altar cloths that are in the sanctuary and chapel. These cloths were made by Harriet Soldner and it took a few YEARS to make each of them with Hardanger Embroidery. This was truly a gift of love to the church. She deserves a big thank you again!
Submitted by Rochelle McBride

February Birthdays
2/01 Morgan Frey
2/02 Katelyn Engstrom
2/03 Marshall Davis
2/03 Kelley Mies
2/03 Vic Porter
2/05 Roy Ehrsam
2/07 Waveland Howe
2/07 Peggy Hunter - G.M.
2/08 Jenna Koons
2/08 Carter Wolfe
2/09 Kolton Littler
2/09 Bobby Smith
2/09 Dudley Vanhorn
2/10 Patrick Breide
2/10 Coni Mayer
2/10 Leah Noble
2/11 Hannah Wilson
2/12 Esther Miller
2/13 Lou Anne Stevens
2/13 Darrell Valentine
2/14 Amanda Geimer
2/16 Whitney Menter
2/16 Chris Smith
2/19 Mark Valentine
2/21 Dustin Bollinger
2/21 Emily Lee
2/21 Rebecca Lee
2/21 Brice Vanhorn
2/21 Brad Wilson
2/21 Ryan Wilson
2/22 Mable Pettibone
2/22 Jon Smith
2/23 Dawn Brown
2/23 Mike Egulia - G.M.
2/23 Alfred Plew
2/24 Rileigh Wolpert
2/25 Kodee McIntosh
2/26 Emma Hawkins
2/27 Diane Kaehr
2/27 Adam Miller
2/28 Connie Snyder
2/29 Mary Piper
G.M. - Golden Meadows

February Anniversaries
2/09 Kyle & Kara Martin
2/18 Don & Sheila Heimann

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service
February 14
7:00 pm
Administrative Council

January 16, 2018

Present: Pastor Joe Andrews, Pastor Amy Covington, Aaron Gower, Annette Gower, Penny Hinskiy, LeAnna Noble, Mike Snyder, Nancy Thompson

1. Penny opened with prayer. God sightings were shared and Pastor Amy served communion.

2. Pastor Amy shared ideas about developing a system to help us grow as disciples of Christ. She reported that a small group is currently meeting to study A Disciple’s Path.

3. Minutes of the Nov. 14, 2017 meeting were approved as amended. (Aaron moved, Nancy seconded)

4. Aaron reported from the Finance Committee that our Conference tithe (our obligation to the Indiana Conference) was paid in full in 2017.

5. Mike explained about choosing a task force to streamline our leadership structure to improve communication, provide efficient use of leaders’ time, and provide more time for ministry.

6. Aaron reported for Frank Montgomery that the Trustees will continue looking at improvements to the heating/cooling system.

7. Pastor Amy talked about the decision of the Boy Scouts of America to allow girls to join. Each local troop is allowed to make its own decision. Our Cub Scout Pack #57 has chosen to follow the national leading and asked if our church would agree to their decision. Pastor Amy had not yet heard from the Boy Scout Troop Leader. Aaron moved that we table a decision until we hear from the Boy Scout leader. Penny seconded. Motion carried.

8. LeAnna gave the following Missions report:
   Fishes and Loaves served 1645 meals from Oct. through Dec., 2017. (3 Wed. no numbers)
   Missions Minutes will be 
   Jan.  Hope Clinic
   Feb.  Love, INC
   March  Caring Covers
   Soup Sundays after 10 Service in Fellowship Hall Jan. 21 - chili and hot dogs
   Feb. 18 - TBA
   March 18 - TBA

   The next Cereal Sunday will be in March.

9. Upcoming events and dates. The deadline for grant applications is Friday, January 26, at 4 p.m. in the church office. Ash Wednesday will be Feb. 14. The next Administrative Council meeting will be March 20.

10. Pastor Amy closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by: Nancy Thompson
Tana’s Colorful Words

Story Time
Reading aloud to your children is enjoyable and helps create a love for books along with developing their vocabulary. Here are a few tips to make this time extra special.

- Read to your child every day, aim for 10-15 minutes. Take turns choosing the books to read together.
- Your voice or actions while reading engages your child’s imagination. Plus your actions while reading helps define the words and makes reading books fun.
- Story time can be extra special as you read and your child turns the pages, teamwork.
- Help their comprehension by asking open-ended questions about the story or ask for predictions as to what will happen next.
- Remember kids love hearing the same story over and over again. It’s comforting and another way to recognize the printed word.

Keep in mind you don’t have to be an expert reader. Story time is to be a fun time. Spending time together reading aloud is quality time you and your child will love and look forward too, especially before bedtime.

Until the come out again!

That’s A Fact
Encourage Kindness!
It’s a fact, children learn from the adults around them. Adults showing kindness to others is a great example for us to pass on to all children! Here’s a suggested family activity to show growth of your family’s acts of kindness tree. Help your child (or you draw a tree with bare branches). Label each branch with a family member’s name. Put the tree for everyone to see. Cut out leaves from colored paper, place the blank leaves in a small container by the tree with a roll of tape or glue stick. When someone notices a family member being kind, select a leaf, write or have the child draw the act of kindness on the leaf and place it on the person’s branch. Notice the tree growth with leaves talking about the acts of kindness that give a happy feeling. Examples (daddy held the door open for mommy. Tony picked up his little sister’s toys.) Your cool family kindness tree can encourage growth and acts of kindness to those around them. Teaching acts of kindness help create a positive environment. According to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me.

Genesis 21:23

That’s A Fact!
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a
Big Heart

February 14, 2018
We are celebrating
Valentine’s Day and
Customer Appreciation Day

Stop in and check out all the new
items. We will have snacks,
specials and of course free
coffee. You may also register for
a free gift.

Thank you for your support.

The Hope Chest Staff
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<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>Pastor Amy out of office</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>7 pm-Worship Design Team-Lounge</td>
<td>9 am-Kids First Parent Meeting-Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
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<td>9 am-MamaTalk</td>
<td>6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope</td>
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<td>4-6 pm-Youth</td>
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<td>5:30 pm-Staff Meeting</td>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope Worship-Fellowship Hall</td>
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<td>11 am-Lenten Prayer-Chapel</td>
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<td>9 am-1 pm-The Alternative: Most of what United Methodists believe about poverty is wrong- - Main Street UMC, Kokomo</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

February 14
Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 pm

February 18
Sunday Soups

February 25
Prayer & Healing Worship
3:00 pm in the Chapel