The Season of Lent

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 of penance by all Christians. (UMBOW, 320)

The Book of Worship goes on to make clear that the First Sunday of Lent, which focuses on the Temptation of Jesus, and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), which focuses on Christ’s triumphal entry and his subsequent crucifixion and death, are only two Sundays with a penitential and somber tone. The rest, guided by the lectionary, focus on other aspects of the meaning of Christ for our lives. And since all the Sundays of Lent are little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. (UMBOW, 320)

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6 with our Ash Wednesday worship service. Ash Wednesday is a time to gather as the community of Christ, and to remember that we are mortal and in need of Jesus’ saving grace. It is the start of our 40 days of penance, confessing our sins to God and seeking to be more like Jesus in our daily living. We gather together to sing hymns of penance and confession, to confess our sins together and receive pardon, and to receive the ashes as a reminder of our mortality. I pray you will join us for this time together as the gathered body of Christ.

Lent lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays. We don’t include Sundays, because each Sunday is a little Easter—we are celebrating what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We focus on giving praise to God and we celebrate how the Holy Spirit is changing our lives, drawing us closer to Jesus. Through the week, we will read the Lectionary Scriptures from the Old Testament and Paul’s letters, and we will reflect on how we can open our lives more fully to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. On Wednesdays, you can join me in prayer and fasting. The purpose of this time of prayer and fasting will be for guidance and wisdom on how to live our best lives in relationship with Jesus. I will be in the Chapel at noon every Wednesday for prayer, and you are invited to join me. I will be fasting from dinner on Tuesday through dinner on Wednesday. During this time, I will add more Bible reading, prayer, and service to the community in order to live out my faith. I pray you will join me in this effort.

You will find the Sunday morning worship focus in the newsletter. It will include the scriptures for the week. I encourage you to read them every day and ask these questions, “What does it say?” “What is God saying to me through this passage?” “How will I apply this learning to my daily life?” I pray your Season of Lent is a time of self-reflection, sacrifice, and transformation.

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.
Ash Wednesday
March 6, 7:00 pm
_Return to Me_
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:2-6:10
First Sunday in Lent
March 10, 8:15 & 10:00 am
_God's Generous Heart_
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8-13
Second Sunday in Lent
March 17, 8:15 & 10:00 am
_Imitating_
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1

Third Sunday in Lent
March 24, 8:15 & 10:00 am
_Repenting_
Isaiah 55:1-9, 1 Corinthians 5:16-21
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 31, 8:15 & 10:00 am
_Coming Together_
Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Thank You Note...
Thanks to everyone for all your prayers for Dean. The test results are back and no cancer. The mass will be treated with medication. Thanks again.
Dot Vanhorn

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service March 6 at 7 pm

March 10
Daylight Saving Time begins

Spring forward!

March Birthdays
3/01 Nan Cook
3/02 Samuel Rash
3/03 Brenda Huggins-GM
3/04 Rhonda McIntosh
3/05 Chase Stahl
3/07 Jake Hawkins
3/08 Sharon Parks-GM
3/09 Liberty Gower
3/10 Kent Koons
3/11 Kiersten Knaub
3/12 Jane Allison
3/13 Sandy Howe
3/13 Kyle Martin
3/14 Nikki Callahan
3/14 Steven Rickord-GM
3/14 Ken Vanhorn
3/14 Allena Wilson
3/15 Linda Smitley
3/15 Robert Zolman-GM
3/17 Mason Myers
3/18 Janet Evans
3/18 Drew Kaehr
3/19 Joyce Overly-GM
3/20 Allison Davis
3/22 Bonnie Werling-GM
3/24 Kampy Koning
3/24 Catherine Laucks
3/25 Jean Newton
3/26 Carl Shaw-GM
3/27 Mike Boyd
3/27 Heide Howe
3/27 Jim Newton
3/27 Karen Tricker
3/28 Keagan Martin
3/29 Jim Laucks
3/30 Jim Heimann
3/30 Kortney Koning
3/31 Alex Noble

Sunday Soup - March 10
Mark your calendars for Sunday Soup, March 10. Come to the Fellowship Hall following the 10 am worship service for food and fellowship. Chicken noodle soup and ham sandwiches will be served. Donations will be received for Missions. “Let us not neglect meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another . . .” Hebrews 10:25

March 10
Cereal Sunday

March Anniversaries
3/04 Alfred & Elaine Plew
3/04 Grant & Deb Porter
3/29 Lou & Vicky Koning
Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Pastor Joe, Penny Hinsky, Mike Snyder, Helen Walters, Jon Stevens, Annette Gower, Aaron Gower, Frank Montgomery, Beverly Stuck

Loving:
- God sightings were shared.
- Opening prayer
  - Pastor Amy
- Holy Communion
  - Pastor Amy

Learning:
- Devotional: Mike Snyder suggested we read the story of David & Goliath which demonstrates how the Lord intercedes for His people. Mike expressed concern for those involved in the Aurora, Illinois workplace shooting.

Leaving:
- Minutes: October 23, 2018 approved motion made by Frank, Jon, approved by all.
- Financial Report: Aaron shared 2018 Year End “All bills are paid.”
  - 2019 Budget: $317,208.00 approved motion by Aaron, Frank, approved by all.
- Single Board Structure: Pastor Amy will share with congregation an explanation & flow chart in newsletter.
- Nominations/Lay Leadership 2019 Roster: Pastor Amy will have for next Administrative Council meeting. May will begin new structure.

Other Items:
- Roof Leak by Rose Garden: Frank is hopeful with a new approach the leak concerns will be solved.

Upcoming Events:
- March 6  Ash Wednesday
- March 9  Summit on Mission & Justice at Grace UMC, Franklin, IN
- March 10  Sunday Soup
- March 16  Vision Day at Columbia City
- April 21  Easter Sunday

Next Ad Council: April 16, 2019 7:00 pm.

Closing Prayer  Pastor Joe

Submitted by: Beverly Stuck
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a Big Heart

We will be collecting Easter Basket items March 18th thru April 12th. Baskets are given to children at the Crisis Shelter, Wednesday night meals and children at the hospital. March 1st thru Prom we will be taking Prom dresses. You may drop them off at the store during regular hours.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words

Highlighting Nursery

KFCCM Nursery is developmentally appropriate for children, ages 6 weeks to 1 year old. State guidelines for the Nursery's size; KFCCM is allowed to care for 8 infants with 2 adults. When a child turns one year old and developing properly they move to the Purple Room. And a new infant arrives. There is a waiting list.

Brenda Garrett has been with KFCCM in the nursery for 13 years. Brenda states, “I like all the little smiles and giggles from the babies. Watching them grow and develop makes my day a blessing.” Brenda and Ken Garrett have raised 3 daughters who graduated from Adams Central. Two of their daughters live in Bloomington while their youngest is a Freshman at Purdue University.

JoAnn Sanford called Jo Jo says, “I’m first and foremost a child of God, a daughter, mother of one, a teacher, and wife, with an Associate’s degree in Human Service and working toward my Bachelor’s.” She’s been with KFCCM for 1 ½ years. Jo Jo explains, “The nursery is very busy with so much going on at all times but I enjoy watching the children develop as new experiences are provided for them.”

Both of these wonderful ladies give loving care to the children daily as they cuddle, feed, change, and assist with the early building blocks of learning. Thank you Brenda & Jo Jo!

Until the come out again!
New Leadership Structure and Flowchart

In an attempt to live out our vision and have effective communication and accountability to our mission, the Ad Council approved a new leadership structure that will begin in 2019 as new leaders are approved and put in position. The best way to describe this structure is that it will help us to Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love as followers of Jesus, in the best way we see possible. To that end, the following changes have been made:

**CONNECT TEAM LEADERS:** Our **CONNECT Ministries** are those ministries that have a main focus of worship, hospitality, fellowship, or evangelism/outreach. This means that the ministries that connect First UMC persons to God (worship), to each other (hospitality & fellowship), and help to connect those outside First UMC with our community (hospitality & evangelism/outreach) are considered **CONNECT** ministries. Two persons who are passionate about hospitality/outreach and/or worship will lead this ministry area. They will be responsible for communicating goals, budget, mission/vision, and policies/procedures with the **CONNECT** ministry teams. One person will be a member of the new Ad Council that will meet quarterly to review our policies/procedures, budget, mission/vision, and how we are living into our goals for the year. The individual **CONNECT** ministries will be led by persons who are passionate and gifted in those areas and they will work with teams to fulfill tasks that will help us **CONNECT** in **COMMUNITY**.

**GROW TEAM LEADERS:** Our **GROW Ministries** are those ministries that have a main focus of helping our church community grow in knowledge of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and how we live out our faith-through the means of grace. This means that the ministries that help to shape the faith of children, youth, and adults, whether they are new to faith or have been a part of the church for years, are considered **GROW** ministries. Two persons who are passionate about discipleship and faith development will lead this ministry area. They will be responsible for communicating goals, budget, mission/vision, and policies/procedures with the **GROW** ministry teams. One person will be a member of the new Ad Council that will meet quarterly to review our policies/procedures, budget, mission/vision, and how we are living into our goals for the year. The individual **GROW** ministries will be led by persons who are passionate and gifted in those areas and they will work with teams to fulfill tasks that will help us **GROW** in **FAITH**.

**SERVE TEAM LEADERS:** Our **SERVE Ministries** are those ministries that have a main focus of serving the community and mission/outreach. This means that the ministries that meet the physical needs of individuals in our community, that serve groups within our community, or that help us reach out beyond our walls are considered **SERVE** ministries. Two persons who are passionate about mission and outreach will lead this ministry area. They will be responsible for communicating goals, budget, mission/vision, and policies/procedures with the **SERVE** ministry teams. One person will be a member of the new Ad Council that will meet quarterly to review our policies/procedures, budget, mission/vision, and how we are living into our goals for the year. The individual **SERVE** ministries will be led by persons who are passionate and gifted in those areas and they will work with teams to fulfill tasks that will help us **SERVE** in **LOVE**.

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMs:** Our **Trustees, Finance & Stewardship, Staff-Parish Relations, and Lay-Leadership Teams** will continue as they are. Their chairs will be members of Ad Council and will receive communication from the Vision team each month. This communication will allow all groups to be on the same page with how the Vision team is discerning where God is leading First UMC. Each Administrative team will accomplish their work on the schedule it deems necessary to equip First UMC to meet its mission and vision. The chairs and team members will be persons who are passionate and gifted in their areas of administration.
VISION TEAM: Our new VISION team will meet monthly to grow together in the areas of mission/vision, team/leadership development, and church growth. This group will assess our current ministries and create annual goals that will help us make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, as we Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love as followers of Jesus. This team will be made up of “big picture” people who can help us see where God is calling us and persons who are strategic and detail-oriented to help us set measurable goals to meet that vision. This group will work with the Ad Council to make sure our policies/procedures, staff and budget are adequate to meet our goals. The VISION team will communicate with the CONNECT, GROW, SERVE team leaders to make sure we have the ministries in place and the people in place to meet our goals.

AD COUNCIL: The Ad Council will meet quarterly to assess and approve our leadership teams, budget, policies/procedures, goals, and mission/vision. This team will consist of the Chairs of ADMINISTRATIVE teams, one person from CONNECT, GROW, SERVE team leaders, the Lay Leader, and member of Annual Conference, three AT-LARGE members, the Chair of the VISION team, and the Senior Pastor.

STAFF: The Senior Pastor will continue to supervise all staff with the help of Staff-Parish Relations. The Staff members will work with our CONNECT, GROW, SERVE ministries as it fits their main job description. Staff members can be members of the VISION team, but they will not be members of Ad Council.
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<th>Grow Ministries</th>
<th>Serve Ministries</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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FAMILY BIBLE READING PLAN

WHY NOT SPEND LENT THIS YEAR FOCUSING ON THE BOOK OF MATTHEW TOGETHER?!?!

BEGIN YOUR READING ON ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH. TO COMPLETE IT BY EASTER, APRIL 21ST.
# March 2019

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<th>Sun</th>
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| 8:15 & 10:00-Worship  
11:15 am-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth | 6 pm-Faith 101  
6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | Pastor Amy out of office  
9 am-MamaTalk  
7 pm-Nominations/Lay Leadership  
7 pm-A.A. | Ash Wednesday  
2 pm-Bible Study, 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves, 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna's Hope, 7 pm-Ash Wed. Service | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | Cereal Sunday  
8:15 & 10:00-Worship  
Sunday Soup after the 10:00 service  
5 pm-Youth, Daylight Saving Time begins | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 8:15 & 10:00-Worship  
11:15 am-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope  
7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal | 8:30-3:30-Mission & Justice Summit, Grace UMC, Franklin, IN |
| Newsletter Deadline | 9 am-MamaTalk  
6:30 pm-Trustees  
7 pm-Nominations/Lay Leadership  
7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope  
7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal | 8:30-3:30-Northeast District Vision Day, Columbia City UMC, Columbia City  
6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope Worship |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 8:15 & 10:00-Worship  
11:15 am-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth | 7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope  
7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

Ash Wednesday
Service · March 6 at 7 PM

March 10
Sunday Soup
Following 10:00 am Service
Chicken Noodle Soup and Ham Sandwiches