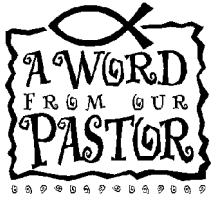


THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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March, 2020



We entered the season of Lent on February 26 and will be in it until Easter Sunday. Thirty-five years ago, I had many members who were suspicious of Lent because it was "just for Catholics", wasn't it? Long before there was Protestant or even Orthodox, there was Lent. It came down to us through Catholic traditions through the Anglican church of John Wesley and has always been part of Methodism even if it hasn't had the depth of tradition that it has in the Catholic church. I was surprised last year to be told that Catholics in many places are no longer expected to give something up for Lent. The tradition of sacrifice has never been a strong emphasis for Methodists that I have known, but I am sure that many of us have "given up something for Lent" somewhere along the way. Once upon a time, I gave up soda or pop and to be specific, Mt. Dew. I had read that you only had to give up something Monday through Saturday because Sunday was a feast day, even in Lent. I had a headache for 6 weeks as I would load up on Sunday only to go through withdrawal all week. The next year, I quit once and only had to suffer one time. On Easter I started in drinking far too much Mt. Dew. Later that year, after a challenge from a Finance Chairperson to give up tea, coffee or soda for 2 months and donate that amount, I quit for good. That was 11 years ago and I am still abstaining. Since then, I am not sure that I have given anything up for Lent, but I understand the idea that sacrifice helps us identify with Jesus in the wilderness.

Whatever you do in this Lenten season, I would ask for your concerted prayers for our church,

national and local, as we face continued uncertainty about the future. We are a part of God's great work and while we fret about an uncertain future we do a disservice to God who will lead us through this process. It may sound cliché, but I still believe that while I don't know what the future holds, I know who holds the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Don

ATTENTION WOMEN: Please mark your calendars for the following dates:



March 2, 5:45 p.m. - Executive Committee

March 2, 7:00 p.m. - Esther Circle

March 11, 1:30 p.m. - Ruth Circle

March 19, 1:30 p.m. - Lydia Circle

March 28, 9:30 a.m. - Spiritual Day Apart



We carried over a larger balance than normal from last year as we received notice from the Conference that our property insurance will increase about 25% this year. This is due to the large losses from hurricanes last year. We also had to replace an A/C unit in the Sunday School wing that was an unexpected \$6,600 expense. We are currently in a positive financial condition, but await the insurance bill due by the end of February. Thank you for your continued support!



The Giving Tree for March is the Days for Girls Project. Volunteers are sewing feminine hygiene kits for women and girls where the disposable products we take for granted are not available. This international project has provided more than a million kits to women and girls around the world. The following items are needed for these kits:

Hotel-size soaps

Wash cloths (Wal-Mart has bundles of 18 - select bundles with the most dark colors; minimal white)

Girls Cotton Briefs - Sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 (Colors or prints)

Ladies Cotton Briefs - Sizes 5, 6, 7, 8 (Colors or prints)

Good quality 100% cotton flannel - medium or dark colors (Any size pieces larger than 12"x12")

Quilter's quality 100% cotton fabric - medium or dark colors (Any size pieces larger than 12"x12")

100% Polyester Thread (Any color)

Grosgrain Ribbon (1/2" or 5/8" wide at least 2 1/2 yards in length - dark colors preferred)

Cash to buy other supplies (Give to Lonnie Kirsch or put in offering plate in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Days for Girls")

SECURITY TEAM - The Security Team continues to work to improve our security and to train for emergencies. We ask that anyone not on the team who might be concealed carrying during our services, to please let the Security Team know. This will allow us to better plan and know who is armed. Please contact Dowling Watford or the Church Office. We plan to include instructional information for the congregation in future articles.

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 7.



- 3rd - Merle Bass
- 4th - Debbie Krum
- 5th - Donna Tenniswood, D.J. Stevens, Ann Thigpen
- 7th - M/M Simon VanBeek, Anna Lou Wilson
- 8th - Nora Ragamat, Nicholas Flood
- 9th - Doris Entry, Chris Straight
- 11th - Angela Raulerson
- 15th - Kenneth Tyson
- 16th - M/M Bill Chaffee
- 19th - M/M George Clement
- 20th - M/M Tom Yackamouih, Howard Harrison
- 21st - Karen Smith, Jane Juday
- 24th - Cathie Carpenter, Kathy Boswell, Carroll Head, Naomi Harris
- 25th - Kent Emley, M/M Kenneth Tyson, Joy Hanna
- 26th - Joy Burnham, George Jackson
- 27th - Ken Keller, Cristian Suarez
- 28th - Betty Stinnett, Kathryn Murphy, M/M Richard Kersey
- 29th - Cody Walker
- 30th - Karter Keller, Evan Keller
- 31st - Rick Gammill



If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or has been omitted, please call the Church Office.



The United Methodist Men cooked for the Missions Committee breakfast to benefit the Henderson Settlement and about \$475 was raised. The men also replaced 50 hymnals that had become worn. We will monitor and replace more as needed. The program for the February meeting was a presentation by Benji Lenfest (Gene and Donna's son) on Medicare insurance. We invite all men to join us on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

The Days for Girls Project group will meet on Monday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 13.