

# The Messenger

March 2018

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

### **SUPPER AND SERVICE**

Our Lenten Suppers are at 6 pm and service at 7 pm. If you would like to prepare a light supper, please choose a date on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 4

### **COMMUNION**

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on March 4. After worship, come on back to the Fellowship Hall for some delicious desserts and a cup of hot coffee or cool tea.

### **OGHS SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING**

We will gather our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 4. Envelopes can be found where you pick up your bulletins.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

### **TWILIGHTERS**

The Twilighters will meet on March 14 at 12:00 pm for their monthly meeting. "Admission" is one pot-luck dish to share. We welcome you to come and join us for lunch.

## MARCH 11

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**

It's time to turn those clocks ahead. So be sure you do and get up bright and early for service!



## SUNDAY, MARCH 25

### **PALM SUNDAY**

Holy Week begins with our Worship Service on March 25, Palm Sunday. Our Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, March 29, at 7:00 pm.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY**

Our Sunday School Easter Party will be on Sunday, March 25, at 10 am. Each child should bring a basket or bag for the egg hunt. The Sunday School will provide the candy eggs. We will have a brunch with cereals, fruits and juices. Come out for a fun time, Siblings are welcome or bring a friend!



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## From the Pastor's Desk



*"And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days." - Mark 1:10-13*

Ever have an incredible spiritual experience? One where you felt the presence of God so close to you? One where you just knew that God had a plan for your life, and God was walking with you?

And then, has that feeling ever left just as soon as it came? And have you ever felt as though you are lost in the wilderness?

Jesus knew what that was like. He knew what it was to emerge from the waters of baptism to the voice of God proclaiming that God was "well pleased" with him. And he knew what it was to then immediately be sent into the wilderness for forty hard days.

In Lent we are called into a different sort of wilderness for forty days. After the familiar songs, raised candles, and joy of Christmas only a couple of months before, we are now in a time of stark simplicity, repressed "Alleluias," and a journey toward the cross. In times like this we Christians must not seem like much fun to be around.

And yet, in Lent we are reminded that we make this journey because Jesus made it first. Christ went into the wilderness to pray, and to fast, and to ready himself spiritually for what was to come. And in Lent we do the same. We know that we too are journeying to the cross. But we have the luxury of also knowing about the next part of the journey. We have the luxury of knowing about the empty tomb.

And so in Lent we are preparing ourselves to be people of the Resurrection. We are going deeper spiritually, and preparing ourselves to be the people we want to be on Easter morning. Lent isn't something to be endured. Lent is a wilderness journey that will lead us to new life.

In Lenten Peace, Pastor Lou



### Thank You

We received a thank you card from Archie Passmore and Penny Dollar for the many cards and prayers when Archie's mother passed away. The thank you can be found on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

### TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, March 14, for a pot-luck lunch at 12:00 pm. Bring a dish and enjoy a good meal and great company. Call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh for more information.

### LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We are again preparing Lenten suppers prior to our services on the Wednesday evenings during Lent. These light meals will be shared in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. We will then gather at 7:00 pm in the church for service. A sheet is on the table in the narthex for those who will volunteer to prepare meals. Our Lenten meals and services are open to everyone and we welcome you to come and join us. Whether you can come for supper or not, you are welcome to gather with us for worship.

## MISSION OFFERINGS

The envelopes for the annual OGHS offering are on the tables where you retrieve the bulletins. We will collect this offering through Easter Sunday.

Our Sunday School is also participating in the OGHS offering and the kids will bring their donations and we will put them in the "refugee tent" collection box.

During the year, there will also be envelopes for Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and the Christmas Fund (for retired pastors and their families on very limited pensions). We also give to Our Churches Wider Mission through our fundraisers. That's 5 UCC missions each year. In addition to those, we can give to VBS Mission, McKinney Clinic, CROP Walk and, in past years, Disaster Relief (which we hope won't be needed this year). All these opportunities to give to these missions are provided because members have a "soft spot" for one or another, or perhaps all of them. We are encouraged to give to the ones that move our hearts and that we feel strongly about. These offerings are given "above and beyond" our regular envelope and plate offerings that are needed to support our church at Emmanuel and continue our local presence in our own back yards. Your generosity is appreciated here at home and around the wider world. May God bless you as much as you bless others.

## MEETINGS

The next Consistory meeting will be on Thursday, March 15, at 6:30 pm.

## UPCOMING DATES

March 11	Daylight Savings Time
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday
March 30	Good Friday
April 1	Easter
April 21	Spring Turkey Supper
June 16	300 Club
October 20	Fall Turkey Supper
November 10	Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

## NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the March Messenger is Monday, March 26. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

## PICTURE PERFECT

**Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:**

Pastor Lou is shown with Mt Post 781 Sons of the American Legion (S. A. L.) recently donated 100% of the proceeds from it's Christmas Raffle. The S. A. L. donated \$1000 each to the Mt Top Community Food Bank, at St. Paul's Methodist Church and Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Dorrance.

Grayson Bunnell is shown enjoying learning "I" by creating "I" two-dimensional figures at the Mt. Top Kids Learning Center.

## EMMANUEL GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

In addition to the Youth Group's Weis and Carones Card Fundraisers, we have a Gift Card Fundraiser which is a great way to help our church. The Fundraiser Sheets are on the table in the narthex. Just look over the list (and there's a lot to choose from) and mark how many cards you want. As with the Youth Group's fundraiser, this is essentially a "no cost" fundraiser. You are just purchasing gift cards in the amount that you would normally spend at that store or restaurant. The fundraising part is that Emmanuel purchases them at a discount which helps our bottom line. **Please pay Lisa Ceaser for your choices. An order will be places March 11<sup>th</sup>.**