

The Messenger

March 2019

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 3 COMMUNION

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on March 3. After worship, come on back to the Fellowship Hall for some delicious desserts and a cup of hot coffee or cool tea.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER AND SERVICE

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten Services will begin on March 6 with our Ash Wednesday Service. We will enjoy a light supper at 6 pm and then gather in the church for service at 7 pm. If you cannot meet for supper, please still come for this very special service beginning this season of reflection and anticipation.

MARCH 10 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!

MARCH 31 OGHS SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

We will gather our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 31. Envelopes can be found where you pick up your bulletins.



Emmanuel United Church of Christ

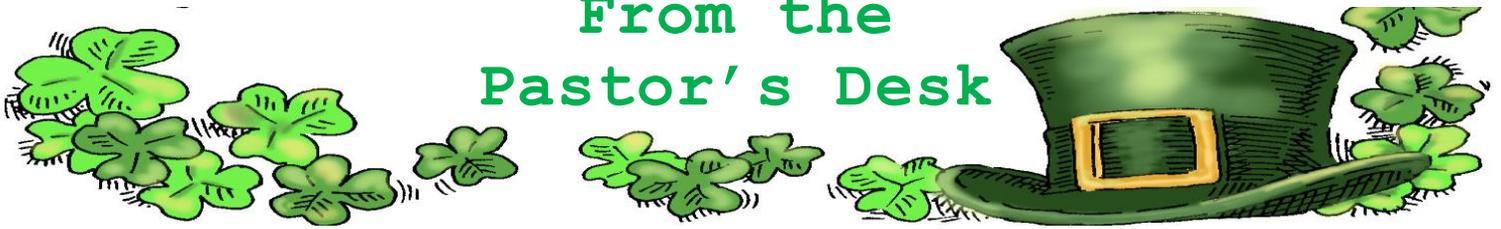
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From the Pastor's Desk



Since the earliest days of Christianity God's people have celebrated the season of Lent.

One way in which this season is celebrated is through the Rite of Ashes. While traditionally done on Ash Wednesday, the ashes, made from the burning of palm fronds, are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross as a reminder of our mortality, as a sign of repentance, and a public expression of our trust in the work of Jesus on the cross.

The season of Lent consists of the forty days that lead up to Easter, during which God's people prepare for celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus by focusing on our need for the forgiveness, grace, and eternal life that the work of Jesus brings. These 40 days of repentance are meant to be a mirror of Jesus' own forty days in the desert where He fasted and prepared for the beginning of His earthly ministry, which would ultimately end on Good Friday and begin again on Easter morning.

Along with the Rite of Ashes, here are some other ways to worship God as we celebrate Lent:

FASTING

It is a common practice to abstain from a favorite food, beverage, or activity during the Lenten season. It should be something that you would normally enjoy daily, so that when you deny yourself the item, you are reminded to think of Christ and what He gave up for us. It is also encouraged that we enjoy the items we are fasting from on each Sunday during Lent as part of your worship and celebration of the Lord's Day.

PERSONAL DEVOTION

Lent is a perfect time to devote ourselves to serious prayer and study of God's Word. The Bible Study I held on Wednesdays helped prepare those involved for Lent. So, share your personal devotions with God! I pray that you find this Lenten season to be a beautiful means of preparing for the upcoming celebration of Good Friday and Easter.

Over the next 40 days, may our hearts and our minds be turned toward Him. And please join us for our Wednesday Lenten services beginning with the fellowship of a meal together! Amen.

Pastor Lou



Thank You

Gladys Readler would like to say Thank You to everyone for their prayers, calls and cards due to the loss of her sister.

There are not enough words to express our thanks for the outpouring of love and sympathy at the passing of Mary Eroh - wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of our families. We are deeply grateful for the cards, calls, gifts and donations in her memory. Our heartfelt thanks goes to all those who helped us in any way during the funeral service, dinner and through other acts of kindness and understanding. You have made our time of sorrow so much easier to bear. It warms our hearts to know how much she meant to so many of you. ~Don, Denise, Donna, Doreen, Darla and our families. ~

Bob Reader would like to Thank Emmanuel for the prayers and donation during his fight against liver cancer.

LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6. 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 **March 31**.

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 21, at 6:30 pm.

UPCOMING DATES

March	10	Daylight Savings Time
April	14	Palm Sunday
April	18	Maundy Thursday
April	19	Good Friday
April	21	Easter
May	4	Spring Turkey Supper
June	15	300 Club
October	19	Fall Turkey Supper

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:

Troop Leader Steve Koons, Kieran Koons, Rowan Dietrich, Brayden Belanchik and Pastor Lou Aita are shown on Feb 3, as Emmanuel UCC hosted Scout Sunday to celebrate with Cub Scout troop 433 and Boy Scout Troop 434. A reception was held in the fellowship hall following the worship service. The scouts participated in roles such as greeters, ushers and acolytes.

EMMANUAL GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

In addition to the Youth Group's Weis and Carone's 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 3rd.**