

# The Messenger

March 2020

## 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 1 COMMUNION

We will celebrate Holy Communion during our worship service on March 1. After worship, come on back to the Fellowship Hall for some delicious desserts and a cup of hot coffee or cool tea.

## MARCH 8 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 22 OGHS SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

We will gather our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 22. Envelopes can be found where you pick up your bulletins.

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## From the Pastor's Desk



Two highlights of February's worship were Scout Sunday and Ash Wednesday. Troop 433 worshipped with us on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. They provided the scripture readings, took up collection, and provided a great coffee hour after worship. They also expressed how happy they are to be attached to Emmanuel UCC, and of course we feel the same way. Another high point was our Ash Wednesday worship service as this moves us as a body of believers into the Lenten Season.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lenten*, which means "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of "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. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship, in continuity with the season's original purpose. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

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. They should be seen as a great unified service beginning with a service of Holy Communion on Holy Thursday and concluding with the services of Easter Day. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

Visuals for Holy Week may include red paraments, stoles, and banners, and symbols such as perfume, coins, a whip, a crown of thorns, a torn garment, nails, a spear, a sponge, or a broken reed. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday the church may be stripped bare of visuals.

We also hold a mid-week Lenten service which begins at 6:00 with a covered dish meal lade by our congregants who elect to prepare the food for that evening. At 7:00 we move to the sanctuary for an abbreviated service. This provides us focus for the Lenten season, and keeps us even closer to God. Of course all are invited to not only our Sunday worship, but the mid-week services as well.

As we worship together and learn together, my hope is that this Lenten season brings wholeness and peace to you and your family, and moves you closer to God.

Peace be with you, Pastor Lou



## LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 26. 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 22**.

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.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, March 29** following **10:30 worship service/counting**.

### KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on Friday, March 13, at 9:00 am.

## UPCOMING DATES

<b>March</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Church Spring Clean</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Easter</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Road Clean Up (Raindate 4/26)</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Spring Turkey Supper</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>300 Club</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Fall Turkey Supper</b>

### NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the March Messenger is Wednesday, March 25. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

### EMMANUEL 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 or Orders Can now be places online. For more info or details ask Lisa Ceaser.**

