



Christ United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 710
Levelland, TX 79336

THE BELL RINGER

February 2020



COMING IN FEBRUARY

Sundays, February 2, 16, 23 – Women’s Study Group at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, February 4 & 18 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26 – Pastor’s Devotional at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 2 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany/Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Sunday, February 9 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany/UMC Scouting Sunday/ Donation Lunch – Casseroles

Sunday, February 16 – Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Monday, February 17 – Office closed - President’s Day

Sunday, February 23 – Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, February 26 – Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.

February Birthdays – LaShea Niblett- Feb. 3, Henry Olis – Feb. 5, Erica Montez - Feb. 10,
Connie Verschuren – Feb. 20, Cianna Richard – Feb. 20

February Anniversaries – John & Brenda Clanton – February

Donation Lunch for February

The donation lunch for February will be February 9th following church. We will celebrate Valentine's Day and President's Day.

We will have casseroles for the meal. All the donations go toward Shared Ministries. The sign-up sheet is on the podium in the narthex.

2020 Directory Available

The new Church Directory pages will be available February 9th. Please call the church office with any changes to your information from last year.

Be sure to pick up your new copy February 9th to ensure you have current information to reach everyone.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating flowers for the altar for worship service. A sign up chart is in the Fellowship Hall. You may donate flowers in honor or memory of someone if you desire.



Black History Month

Each Sunday during Black History month we will sing one hymn which comes from African-American Spirituals or hymns written by African-American lyricists or composers.

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Oath Bound Saints,

What do we feel when we kneel at the altar during Holy Communion, or stand before the elements in a service in which intinction is used. Do we feel a sense of awe? Do we feel connected to all of the other communicants? Do we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit? Do we feel a sense of duty to uphold our vow to follow in the Way? Or do we feel nothing? For some, Holy Communion is just that "Holy". For them, each time the elements are blessed and served, a sense of total dedication and self-sacrifice fills their very being.

In Mark 23:18-22 we read the following: And you say, "Whoever swears by the altar is bound by nothing, but whoever swears by the gift that is on the altar is bound by the oath." How blind you are! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar, swears by it and by everything on it; and whoever swears by the sanctuary, swears by it and by the one who dwells in it; and whoever swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by the one who is seated upon it.

Holy Communion is not just a remembrance of an event we read about in the Bible. Indeed, Holy Communion is a revisiting of our personal and communal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are church! That means we are a connectional body of individuals who give up that individuality to come together as God's family, not just in the Lord's Supper, but throughout our journey of faith.

When we partake of the broken bread and juice of the vine each month, we are participating in a holy mystery by vowing to repent of our sins and to take up the cross. We repeat the basic belief of all Christians: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** When we say this, we are doing more than acknowledging a fact. We are stating a truth which impels us to move through life in faith bound by this searing belief. Holy Communion is a reminder that we are a bound people: bound to God and bound to one another. We can do no less than to open ourselves up to an exchange of our self-filled existence for a spirit-filled existence.

The next time you come to the altar to partake of the sacramental elements of Holy Communion, I encourage you to let go. Let go of self and accept the overwhelming presence which will not only alter your day, but will alter your life. In that time, your oaths to self will be broken and you will be bound anew with Holy ties which will free you to love completely.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis