



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

THE BELL RINGER

March 2024



COMING IN MARCH

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 –6:15 p.m. – Lenten Study

Tuesdays, March 5 & 19 - Grief Support Group with Ann Akin in the parlor at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 3 – Third Sunday In Lent/ Imagine No Malaria Sunday

Tuesday, March 5 – Office Closed – Church used as an Election Site

Sunday, March 10 – Fourth Sunday In Lent/ UMCOR Sunday/Shared Ministries Sunday
Daylight Savings Time (move clocks forward one hour)

Sunday, March 17 – Fifth Sunday In Lent

Sunday, March 24 – Sixth Sunday In Lent

March Anniversaries – Alberto & Rhonda Giussani – March 7

Shared Ministries Sunday

March 10, 2024

A Word from the Pastor

Shared Ministries Lunch at noon following worship.

Dear Outreaching Saints,

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, March 10th at 12:30 p.m.
Following Shared Ministries Lunch

On March 20, 1799, William Cowper wrote his last poem entitled *The Castaway*. This poem is a retelling of an actual account of a sailor washed overboard as the captain of the ship and its crew watch helplessly as he is washed away. Much has been written about this poem and Cowper's other poems as being precursors of Romanticism. Cowper also wrote hymns, one of which was *There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood*.

S/PPR Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Despite *The Castaway* being about an actual event, some believe it to be an autobiography of Cowper's bout with depression. In *The Castaway*, Cowper views himself as adrift and abandoned by those who can do nothing to save him. This poem was written shortly before his death, and according to *Today In Christian History*, he believed himself to be eternally damned.

Blessing Boxes

In the narthex is a box for contributions going to the blessing boxes that are now in Levelland. There are lists of items needed also in the narthex.

This account of Cowper's struggles with depression is certainly not an isolated event. Many throughout history have struggled with depression. Even within the church, pastors have counseled those who feel that they have lost their chance at redemption and are lost. In this modern world, personal contact is becoming more and more rare. Vast numbers of older adults who have lost most of their family find themselves in a state of loneliness. This can sometimes contribute to conditions of depression. Within our own families we see this. What are we to do as Christians?

Lenten Study

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 6:15 p.m.
We meet at Hickory Place

In Galatians 6:2 we read the following: "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." The needs of those around us, indeed the world, may seem daunting and impossible to address as individuals or even churches. But, we are commanded to love unconditionally, to love others as we want to be love. For those who would give in to the mantra that there is so much need, how can my efforts be enough, I encourage you to stop and think about the difference you make with one person at a time. Imagine if everyone gave up because there is too much to do.

Pastor's Online Devotionals

Posted regularly
on Thursdays & Fridays each week.

During this Lenten season, resort to prayer and the reading of your Bibles to help guide you toward the courage to do more in the name of Christ. Remember how much our Lord and Savior loved us. As Christ died sacrificially for us, we are called to love sacrificially (to not count the cost).

Online Worship Services

Worship Services will be posted on our Facebook page and our webpage by 4 p.m. each Sunday.

For those adrift in spiritual despair, be near, be ready to listen, most importantly, be ready to love. I would also encourage you to not ignore the other forms of despair as well. The willingness to give your time to another person will do much to make available a life-line of hope for one adrift.

Daylight Saving Time



March 10th starts Daylight Savings time.

Don't forget to move your clocks
forward!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis