



THE TRUMPETER

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A Note from Pastor Rick...

The Believers Share Their Possessions

Acts 4:32 All believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.

I hope you have survived the 2017 ice storm? During my time without electricity I've done lots of reading. One article I came across, frankly, shocked me.

In a 2015 piece from "The Oregonian", the author, Melissa Binder, writes that, "A new study in the journal Current Biology, found children in religious households are significantly less generous than their nonreligious peers..."

Here is how the study worked: researchers asked kids to play a game which required them to decide how many stickers to share with an anonymous peer from the same school and similar ethnic group."

Essentially, what they found was that the children from religious homes were less likely to share than those who were not from religious homes.

So as we progress through 2017 together, I want to thank you for being generous, too. I'd love for us to be such a generous church that if a study like the one I just mentioned were done in our children's church, they'd find that our kids were some of the most generous in the country! That is the example Jesus offered to us, He gave and gave and gave, even when it cost him his life. Let us prayerfully reflect on this principle.

Grace & Peace for 2017
Pastor Rick.



RALLIES - 2 Locations Come to one or both!

Discover what CLUE Camp is all about and get excited about going to camp this summer! At the rallies there will be worship, skits, games, food, fun, and friends! All at no cost!

Rallies begin at 4:00pm

Follow us on  UMC - CLUE Camp  @cluecampumc  cluecampumc

Woodward FUMC
February 12

Highland Park UMC
Stillwater - May 7



OCU Stars' Youth Service Day

March 4, 2017

OCU invites you and your youth group to attend Oklahoma City University's annual event designed specifically for United Methodist Youth:

OCU Stars' Youth Service Day on March 4, 2017.

Who is invited?

Youth and sponsors from around the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

What is it?

A day to worship, serve, and enjoy lunch and fellowship with other United Methodist Youth from around the conference. Also this is a great time to get to know YOUR United Methodist University!

When is it?

Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Check in begins at 9:30 AM.

How can you be a part of this great day?

- 1) Contact Elizabeth Horton-Ware at erhortonware@okcu.edu to request a registration form. Complete the form and submit it to Elizabeth by the deadline of February 15.
- 2) Make copies of the OCU Special Event Waiver (attached with the registration form) and have each student sign it and have their guardian sign it if they are under 18.
- 3) Bring the signed waivers to the event.

There is no charge to participate in this event!

Questions?

For more information about the day or registration
Call Elizabeth Horton-Ware at 405-208-5484 or email at erhortonware@okcu.edu

We look forward to having you and your youth join us for this great day of service and fellowship!

UMW Sunday

The UMW will be leading worship on Sunday, April 30, at both the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services. Please pray for them as they prepare. And please support them with your presence on that Sunday!

Valentine's

Day With Jesus

Jesus does not send perfume
To linger in the air
Instead He sends salvation, sweet
To show how much He cares.

He doesn't bring me candy hearts
In boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me know
I'm precious in His sight.

He doesn't send out pretty cards
Trimmed in shades of red
Instead He gave His life for me
His precious blood was shed.

He doesn't hand out fancy gifts
Like we would send to mother
Instead He sends a message clear
To always love each other.

He doesn't give me teddy bears
That whimper, "please be mine"
Instead He gave His heart to me
I wear it all the time.

He doesn't give me roses, pink
For all the world to see
Instead He gave eternal life
That's good enough for me!

- Marilyn Ferguson -



PRAYER REQUEST

*We will be glad to join
with you in praying
for your specific needs.*

Please write your request here
and place it in the offering plate
or hand it to an usher.

Please pray for _____

Requested by _____

Date: _____

____ I would like someone to contact me
to pray over more confidential matters.

Phone number: _____

***Please share with us as God
meets your needs so that we
may rejoice with you!***





What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

When is Lent? It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithing of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from March 1 (Ash Wednesday) to April 16 (Easter), 2017.

Mardi Gras? What does that have to do with JESUS?? Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Lent starts. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. And it's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties.

In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lent season started, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved (in some places) into a pretty wild party with little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. Oh well. But Christians still know its origin, and hang onto the true Spirit of the season.

So the real beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday? Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

Why ashes? In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from? On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic.

What do Christians do with ashes? At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection (life after death) and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

So what is LENT? At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. Where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry.

(Speculation)

Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers like you. Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

Why "DO" Lent? How do I start? Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart.

About the Author: Rev. Penny Ford is the pastor of a small UMC church in Carrollton, Alabama. She loves playing trains and going for walks with her son, Jamieson.

Photo Credit: Photo by Beth A. Richardson.

11:00 am Liturgists

2/5 Andrea Magness
2/12 Ryan Royal
2/19 Greg Huenergardt
2/26 Kevin Schultz
3/5 Katelyn Trobaugh
3/12 Andrea Magness
3/19 Greg Huenergardt
3/26 Kevin Schultz

Children's Moments

(both services)

2/5 Patsy Witschi
2/12 Patsy Witschi - Neysa Anderson
2/19 Patsy Witschi - Rusty Royal
2/26
3/5
3/12
3/26

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