

The United Methodist News

YEAR 23 VOLUME 3

MARCH, 2015

SERVING GOD 121 YEARS

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
 10:30 A.M.



Youth Ski Trip
 March 13-20

Palm Sunday
 March 29

Maundy Thursday
 April 2

Good Friday
 April 3

EASTER!
 April 5

What's Inside

Church Calendar.....2
 Finance Report3
 From Tracy's Desk3
 Our Sympathy4
 Birthdays, Anniversaries4
 Cards of Thanks4
 Preschool Report.....4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Frequently Asked Questions about Lent

By the time you read this we will be well into the season of Lent. Even though it is traditional in the United Methodist Church to recognize Lent and engage in some form of Lenten Discipline (i.e. prayer, fasting, etc.), many people have questions about or don't fully understand Lent. So, whether you are a cradle-to-grave Methodist or come to United Methodism from another tradition, some answers to Frequently Asked Questions may help provide some clarity to this often misunderstood liturgical season.

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The root words of lencten mean, "long days" and probably refers to the increasing daylight at this time of year. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, moderation, fasting and spiritual discipline as preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Why are Sundays not counted in the 40 days of Lent?

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Why ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for

(Continued on page 2)

REV. KYLE CLARK

MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

• SUNDAY •

Lenten Study, 6 p.m.

UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC

Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

LOGOS, 3:15 p.m.

Family Meal 5:15 p.m.

WOW (Worship) following meal

Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Women's Bible Study, 6:15 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

Senior Café, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CFLC

- 2 Trustee Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 8 Church Council Meeting following worship
Charge Conference following Church Council
- 10 Women of Faith, 2 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 13-20 Youth Ski Trip
- 18 Membership Care, 12 noon, CFLC
- 21 Neighborhood Breakfast, 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- 22 VBS Meeting following worship
- 29 Palm Sunday – Children's Parade of Palms

ACOLYTES

- 1 Lexi Pickle and Wyatt Holt
- 8 Nathan Murray and Waylon Murray
- 15 Brady Perry and Burke Perry
- 22 Wyatt Holt and Lexi Pickle
- 29 Waylon Murray and Nathan Murray



THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

e-mail: rogers2006@windstream.net

website: www.poteaufumc.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Weekly Communion 9:10 a.m. except first Sunday

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Darrell Cates
Senior Pastor	Rev. Kyle Clark
Associate Pastor	Rev. Tracy Hoskins
Director of Youth Ministries	Kimberly Hardaway
Director of Children and Family Ministries	Rev. Tracy Hoskins
Director of Music Ministries	Steve Clark
Administrative Assistant	Reenea Thompson
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Wendy Kelly
Custodian	Phil Smith

District web page: www.gbpm-umc.org/mc-dist/



PASTOR TO PEOPLE (Continued)

sins.

What does The United Methodist Church say about fasting?

There is a strong biblical base for fasting, particularly during the 40 days of Lent. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights, according to the Gospels.

Fasting has been a part of Methodism from its early beginnings. John Wesley (the father of Methodism) considered fasting an important part of a Christian's life and he fasted weekly. To Wesley, fasting was an important way to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He believed it allowed more time for prayer and was more meaningful if combined with giving to the poor. Although fasting usually refers to any practice of restricting food, there is a distinction between fasting (limiting consumption of food and drink) and abstinence (abstaining from eating meat.) Abstinence from meat one day a week is a universal act of penitence.

Since Lent is a very personal time for individuals, The United Methodist Church does not have official guidelines on how individuals should observe Lent. Some choose to give up a certain food, however a spirit of fasting can include restriction of activities such as television watching, shopping or social networking. Some choose to give away clothing or possessions, give time by volunteering or increase time spent in prayer.

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). This is why services on this night sometimes include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

Where Does the Term "Good Friday" Come From?

The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday," according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* (p. 96). It is the common name for the day among English- and Dutch-speaking people. It is a day



that proclaims God’s purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God’s self in Christ. As seen in John’s gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation, but was working out God’s intention for the world — winning salvation for all people. We call it “good” because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!

“Good Friday” is not a universal name for the day. Popular names for the day are “Holy Friday” among the Latin nations, “Great Friday” among the Slavic peoples, “Friday of Mourning” in Germany, “Long Friday” in Norway, and “Holy Friday” (Viernes Santo) among Hispanic peoples.

How did the early church observe Lent?

In addition to being a time to remember the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus, the early church used Lent to prepare converts for baptism, and to offer opportunities for those who had been separated from the church to be reconciled.

Today Lent remains an ideal time to remember our baptism and to reconcile relationships with those we may have harmed. All of this signifies to us our sinfulness and the sacrifice of Jesus which makes our forgiveness possible.

There you have it! Everything you ever wanted to know and maybe some things you didn’t know you wanted to know about this wonderful season of reflection and repentance. I invite to observe a Holy Lent.

Shalom,

From Tracy’s Desk

By Rev. Tracy Hoskins, Associate Pastor and Director of Children and Family Ministries
 thoskins@poteaufumc.com

Family Time

Groundhog Bingo Night was a whole lot of fun! We had lots of food and fellowship. The kids had a blast playing in the bounce house and winning Bingo prizes. The adults had fun, too!

We’ll be planning some more Family Fun Nights soon!

Kid’s Korner

Achievements: Congratulate Brady and Burke Perry for their attendance when you see them.

Do you like to work with children? Do you want to serve? We are in need of Sunday School

teachers. In order for us to follow our church’s safety guidelines, we need two adult teachers during the Sunday School hour. If we had several volunteers, then we could rotate helpers so that it is not as big a burden. If you would like to help or for more information, please contact me at the church or talk with Suzanne Klutts.

Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it. We are having a planning meeting on March 22nd after worship for all who would like to help with VBS this summer. VBS will be June 1-5, 2015. Contact me if you need more information.

LOGOS

We are going to be visiting Crocodile Dock where fearless kids shine God’s Light. We will be learning about Moses and the burning bush, the plagues, the Passover, Jesus’ resurrection, crossing the Red Sea.

- 4 F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God) (Wear Green)
- 11 High Flying (No preparation)
 Family night LTD*
- 18 Spring Break NO LOGOS
- 25 Sports Night (Wear your favorite sports jersey) – Bowling Night

*LOGOS Talent Display – after dinner (5:45)
 the LOGOS kids will display what they have learned in Worship Skills.

Everyone is welcome to join us any Wednesday for dinner at 5:00.

Our Sympathy

Our love and sympathy is extended to the families of Dartha Garner and Eloine Crews.



Eloine was our oldest member, recently celebrating her 104th birthday.

Dartha, a former long-time member has been residing in California with her children for some time now. She was cremated and will be brought back in the summer to be buried next to her husband, Zelmon. Her children ask that if anyone wanted to give in her memory, to please give to the Church Youth as that was an area of ministry close to her heart.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for January 2015

Average Attendance Figures for January: 134
2015 Budget Requirements: \$340,000.00
Needed for Budget Each Week: \$6,538.46
Needed through January: \$26,153.85
January Receipts: \$20,957.05
January Expenditures: \$21,821.92
New Building Fund Figures:
Deposits: \$1,832,098.44; Expenditures: \$2,579,246.98



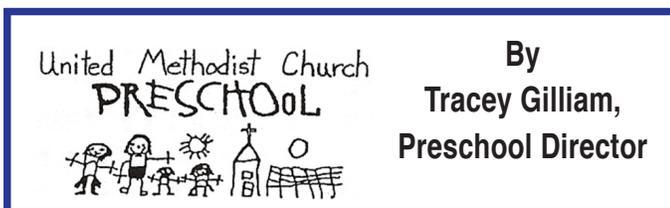
Cards of Thanks

I would like to thank church members for the Christmas cards I received. They have given me great joy as I read and re-read them, especially those who took the time to write me a special note.

Betty Ridenour

Thank you so much for all the prayers and cards that were sent our way on the passing of Jack.

The meal that you provided was wonderful.
The Family of Jack Hammond



The Preschool memory verse for March is "I will be glad and rejoice in your love forever."

March themes include: Outer Space, What Will Hatch, Windy Weather, and Easter Fun.

The letters we will be learning about are R, S, T and U. The colors for March are green and yellow and the shapes are clovers and diamonds.

Spring Break will be the week of March 16th. The preschool will not be having classes.

March will begin our pre-enrollment for the upcoming school year. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year, please have them call the church at 647-2217 or Ms. Tracey at 839-7424.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone who knows of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, whether a church member or not, should call Cindy Brody at 918-385-1542 or the church office at 647-2217.

God bless all those that I love;

God bless all those that love me;

*God bless all those that love those that I love
and all that love those that love me.*

- From a New England sampler

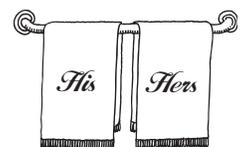
March Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Clark, Jan Thompson, Ryker Holt
- 2 Jeff Roberts, Sarah Bradshaw, and Josh Graham
- 3 Carol Garner and Mollie Forsberg
- 5 Janet Sockey, Maci Jane Pickle, and Jim Coggins
- 6 Jeff Shore and Jake McMillin
- 8 Daniel Ambriz
- 9 Samantha Bell and Matthew Houston
- 12 Dalton James
- 13 Bailey Baker, Kelsey Robinson, Dee Carsello
- 14 Todd Wright and Jean-Anne Shankle
- 16 Connor Wheat and Shannon Stubbs
- 18 Mike Lee, Tim Renfro, Jacob Sconyers and Gaytra Coggins
- 22 Joseph Sabatucci, Jr. and Hank Harris
- 23 David Barnes
- 24 Carol Baker, Debbie Wood, Susan England, and Carol Darrow
- 25 Bob Greenwood, Wayne Moore, Joshua Sconyers, Nathan Murray, and Heather Robinson
- 26 Robert Greenwood, Jr.
- 29 Coni Rayburn, Mike Murray



March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike and Kay Sullivan
- 12 Jim and Gaytra Coggins
- 17 Jeremy and Kaycee Quarry
- 17 Jason and Kelie Bandy
- 18 Jim and Andrea Skelton
- 21 Bill and Sandra Slater
- 22 Gary and Artheia Hageman
- 27 Ted and Jane Kilgore



We would like to make our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar complete.

If we do not have your family members' birthdays and anniversaries, please give the office that information by calling 918-647-2217.

Thank you for taking the time for this.

Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room devotional guides are provided for you on the tables outside the sanctuary. Be sure and pick one up to accompany your daily Bible study.

They are published every two months.