



THE DEXTER CONNECTION

Lent - a time to pray, fast, give

Ash Wednesday (March 1) marks the first day of Lent. We will gather in Wesley Hall to worship and remember our own mortality. The service is a somber reminder that we are all going to die. People will come forward and ashes from the burned palms of last year's Palm Sunday will be placed on their forehead. I will then say the same thing that I say at graveside funeral services: "From dust you came and to dust you shall return." (Ecclesiastes 3:20) Not exactly the happiest day on the church calendar. However, it is an important reminder that only Christ destroys the power of sin and death, and that all of us are in need of God's amazing grace. Lent is the season of the year where we prepare our hearts, minds, bod-

ies, and souls for Easter. We prepare ourselves for Easter in several ways. We spend more time in prayer. Perhaps for Easter you could commit to coming to Morning Prayer once or twice a week. If that doesn't work with your schedule, take home one of our Morning Prayer rubrics and pray the prayers each morning before you start your day.

Another Lenten discipline is spending more time doing acts of mercy. What ways can you serve the poor or the marginalized during Lent? Maybe you can join us each week at the nursing homes as we sing hymns with the residents. You can also give food at the church for the Summer Food Program.

Perhaps the most common Lenten practice is

fasting, or as many people say, "giving up something for Lent." Refraining from food one night a week helps us not rely on bread alone, but on God for our needs. John Wesley taught that fasting helps us to learn patience, how to pray, and it leads us to a keen awareness of our sinfulness (particularly with overeating!).

But above all, Wesley wanted us to fast with one thing in mind—glorifying God. Wesley wrote:

"Let our intention be this, and this alone, to glorify our Father in heaven; to express our sorrow and shame for our many transgressions of his holy law; to wait for an increase of purifying grace, focusing our attention on things above; to add seriousness and



earnestness to our prayers; to avert the wrath of God, and to obtain all the great and precious promises which he has made to us in Jesus Christ."

Have a blessed Lent,

Pastor Ron

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 12



Feeding Hungry Children

We will begin collecting food items for "Feeding Christ's Children" on the first Sunday of Lent, March 5, and we will continue through Easter Sunday, April 16. Food distributions will be made from the Stoddard County Gospel Mission to help feed children in need this summer. We will also be

accepting monetary donations for the program. Be sure to indicate "summer food program" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope. Place your items in the collection bins located near each entrance.

The items we are collecting are listed at the right.

Summer Lunch Program Shopping List

- Mac & Cheese Microwave Tubs
- Applesauce Tubs
- Pudding Cups
- Juice Box Drinks
- Cereal Tubs
- Chef-Boy-Ar-Dee Microwave Tubs

Congratulations to Alan and Kelly Kelsay upon the birth of their daughter, Nora Raelynn, on January 30, weighing 6 pounds and 6 ounces. Proud grandparents are Carl & Linda Hill.

In Our Mailbox

Dear Church Family, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and visits I received in the hospital and nursing home. I am still home bound but am hoping to be able to get out and about soon. I know your prayers are doing great at helping me recover. Hope to see you in church soon. Jo Pankey

Dear members, Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all the prayers each of you has lifted to God for me. I truly believe in the power of

prayer and am so thankful to be part of such a caring faith community. My current status involves 4-6 weeks of additional healing and then 5 weeks of radiation. I count my blessings every day and ask God to bless each of you for your love and healing prayers. God's will be done. Affectionately, Rosemarie Young

To the Moms on a Mission Group: Thank you so much for the thoughtful gift of cookies! We appreciate your kindness and we think

your ministry is a wonderful idea—moms are modeling for their children how to serve the Lord and touch hearts at the same time and children learning to be in the mission field in their own community. You certainly touched our hearts and we commend you for that—something we enjoyed eating too! Tell the children the cookies were delicious and decorated nicely. Love, Angela, Melanie, Debbie, & Jennifer (Dexter PAT)

Nursing Home Ministry

Join us on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. for an 30 minutes of singing for our Nursing Home Ministry. We meet at Cypress Point on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month and at Crowley Ridge on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. Everyone is welcome. Contact Kasey or Ron Beaton for more information.

Growth Groups

Growth Group 1	Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.	Classroom C, Wesley Hall	Terryl Almond
Growth Group 2	Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.	Classroom A, Wesley Hall	Patti Gard
Growth Group 3	Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Church Parlor	Ron Beaton
Growth Group 4	Thursday, 9:15 a.m.	Classroom A, Wesley Hall	Kay Plummer
Growth Group 5	Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	Central Gardens	Mark Snider
Growth Group 6	Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Ultimate Flooring	Keith Byrd

Moms on a Mission

February was so fun as we celebrated God's love for his people through a Valentine's Luncheon. The kids served our guests, women and men from a few different churches. Thank you so much to Sandy and the

Kingdom Kids, Donna Keller for decorations, and Phyllis Kull for her donation of sandwiches. We couldn't have done this without each of you! Stay tuned next year as this event was such a hit we may make it

bigger next time! Moms and kids have worked so hard that our next meeting will be a bit of a break. Staying within our mission to teach kids to serve others, we will watch a kids movie about serving others. This

should be a fun and relaxing break from our work! Bring your favorite snack if you want or a fun chair, blanket, etc. See you at 10:00 a.m. on March 4.



Our Prayer Ministry

Current Prayer Requests

Mary Jane Mayfield, Carson Clark, Gene Rowland, Gaye Cooper, family of Nancy Wade, family of Richard Hodder, Steve Hall, family of Bryan Gentry, Ginny Martin, Jim Baker, Joan Lee, Michael Howell, Jordan Threadgill, Peggy Matthews, Patsy McCoy, Randy Laird, Winford Matney, Missy Ashely, M.A. Hart, Luke Hueckel, Neil Boyd, Gaye Cooper, family of Vera Ross, Deanna Ginther, Laura Simmons, Patty Green, Annabeth Miller, Kay Robertson, Janet Huring, Randy Speck

Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Lesa Holland and her family upon the death of her mother, Louise Fields; to Pam and Tyler Trammell upon the death of her father, Richard Hodder.

Members and Friends in Dexter Nursing Homes

Central Gardens: Elise Temples, Wes Eskew, Peggy Matthews, Georgia Newcomer, Marie Quinn, Leon Ward, Doc Palmer, Marvin Wheeler, Gary Corlew, Elmer Wilson, Elsie Buttry, M.A. Hart, Barbara Sanders. Cypress Point: Karen Tippen, Wilma Quick, Gerald Jackson, Carolyn Montgomery. Golden Living: Annabeth Miller. Crowley Ridge: June Manlove, Chuck Asberry, Marsh Watkins, Bea McKillip

First United Methodist Church

Ron Beaton, Pastor
P.O. Box 156
501 South Walnut Street
Dexter MO 63841

Nonprofit Org.
Postage Paid By
Permit #31
Dexter MO 63841

Sunday Worship Services

Morning Grace 8:15 a.m.
The CrossOver 9:15 a.m.
Traditions 10:30 a.m.

www.umc-dexter.org



A S H
W E D N E S D A Y

March 1, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
Wesley Hall

Corned Beef & Cabbage Feed



Thursday, March 16
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish Center

\$8 per person

Proceeds benefit Stoddard
County charities.