

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season. For Christians, this is a time to prepare for Easter. They do this by periods of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline.

During Ash Wednesday, people are reminded of human mortality and reconciliation with God.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others). (umc.org).

Join Francis Street First on March 2, 2022, for dinner (5:30 PM) followed by Service (6:15 PM). Our Nurture Ministry will be providing 2-3 soups, sides, and desserts. If you would like to volunteer with this ministry, please contact Wickie Utley (Chair) or Jennifer Tanguay (Admin).

Thank you, Nurture Ministry!



A prayer for Ukraine from Rev. Beth Richardson, Dean Emeritus of The Upper Room Chapel.

God makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. ...
God breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
God burns the shields with fire.
God says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

Lenten Season

March 2, 2022 - April 14, 2022

This Lenten Season takes place March 2, 2022, to April 14, 2022. During which time, traditionally Christians 'give up' something. It is a sign of sacrifice, and it tests their self-discipline as Jesus did when he went into the wilderness for the 40 days before he died on the cross.

What will you sacrifice this Lenten Season? Below is a list of ideas:

- *Using your phone at dinner (put it down),
- *Skipping your doctor's appointments (get that yearly check-up),
- * Not catching up with loved ones (take the time to contact family and friends),
- *Not offering forgiveness (forgive someone who has wronged you),
- *Donate a few items per day (declutter),
- *A half hour of sleep (use that time to pray and read the Bible),
- *Being uninvolved (Join a ministry at the church), and
- *Your time (give your time to someone or something. Attend the Lenten Study).

A Lenten Bible Study will be on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM, in Kemper Hall. This is a six-week study. 8 books are available in the office, for those participating.

The Witness at the cross by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine.

"Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die.

Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be!

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing."
<https://www.cokesbury.com/Witness-at-the-Cross>

Ash Wednesday



Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.



UMCOR SUNDAY – March 27, 2022.

'As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change. 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project.'

Jennifer Tanguay, Stewardship Chair

Putting Your House In Order

Stewardship Class

Consider Joining the Stewardship Ministry. Our next meeting is March 17th, at 11:30 AM.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens”
~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

If you attended the funeral of our dear late member, Eleanor Langemach, you would have heard how she had her house in order. They were not referring to her physical house, although Eleanor likely kept that in order too. They were referring to the binder she kept which included her obituary, hymns she would like played during her celebration of life, and more. All of Eleanor’s careful planning took the stress from her family during their time of moaning.

That got me thinking about my own life. Would my family know which songs to play or the highlights I would

want noted in my obituary? Where would my children go if my husband and I passed away together? Although this is a subject matter, I do not want to think about at age 36, it is definitely something that needs to be discussed.

How do I get started?

What should I include?

On Sunday, April 3rd, 2022, Rev. Laura Murphy of the United Methodist Foundation will be at Francis Street First. She will deliver the sermon, Holy communion, and will teach a class after service titled “Putting Your House In Order”. During the class, Rev. Laura will teach us how to build a meaningful plan.

Because informational binders will be handed out, please sign-up with the

Stewardship. It is important we have an accurate headcount. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, March 27, 2022.



Thank you for generously supporting the work of Christ’s Kingdom through the ministries of Francis Street First United Methodist Church. Your gifts touch lives in the name of the living Christ every day.

IGNITE MINISTRY

Valentine’s Ice-Skating Party

On February 13, 2022, Ignite Youth and Children’s Ministry celebrated Valentine’s Day with an Ice-Skating Party at Bode Ice Arena.



Community Cleanup Day:

Ignite Youth and Children’s Ministry will be completing a service project at the church on Saturday, March 26, 2022. They will focus on cleaning up the trash outside of the building. This is open to everyone, not just the youth and children. The cleanup starts at 1:00 PM.

SQ, TJam, and MME:

Student Quest is a youth group aimed at middle school and high school students. They meet on Monday evenings at the Midland Ministries Building, 709 E Hyde Park at 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

Thursday Jesus and Me is a younger youth group aimed at grades 3-6. They meet on Thursdays at the Midland Ministries Building, 709 E Hyde Park at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM.

The Midland Main Event is March 18, 2022. It is open to grades 6-12. This event will be a movie, Pizza, and Ice Skating at Bode Ice Arena, 6:00 PM - 11:45 PM. The evening will begin at Journey Baptist Church and conclude at Bode Ice Arena. The cost is \$20/student.

Youth Celebration:

Avery Tanguay, a youth at Francis Street First, is a 6th grade middle school student at East Buchanan Middle School.

In January, he auditioned for a part in his school play, Beauty And The Beast. He was given the role of *Shepherd Boy*. Avery has one line and is part of the singing/dancing groups throughout the play.

The East Buchanan Middle School play will be performed at the East Buchanan Elementary School (High School gym), on March 11 and 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM.



Scholarship

The Scholarship Ministry will accept applications for the Lomax and H Scholarships until **April 15, 2022**. The applications can be picked up from the office. The Scholarships will be awarded during the Graduation Sunday Service on May 15, 2022. The Scholarships are currently available to those who are members of Francis Street First, who will be continuing their education after high school.

Graduation Sunday Service:

Mark your calendar

Every year in May (sometimes June), our Congregation celebrates those who are graduating from High School and College. During this service, these students are recognized, and Scholarships awarded.

The non-graduating youth and children have been working hard over this past school year. During the Graduation Sunday Service, these students will be recognized as well.

After the service, please join us in Kemper Hall for the *Third Sunday Coffee with the Pastor*.



Rev. Dr. Lydia Istomina

Let's Become Irrepressible

"Where there is no struggle there is no strength." Oprah Winfrey

Many of us are sport fans. We just watched Super Bowl and now, we are admiring the strength of the athletes while watching the Olympics.

Their strength requires tremendous resilience that is learned by practicing again and again in any given situation. Falling and getting up and falling again is the only way to become resilient.

What is your resilience capacity? During the pandemic each of us tested how high or low it was. We all wish for a trouble-free life, but how can we prepare for adversity if we do not practice? That's where we need the church. We are entering the season of Lent that requires denial, discipline, and even fasting to learn how to become resilient by practicing our faith and managing emotions and energy.

How often do you hear people say, *"I'm done with church."* I don't really need to go to church...my relationship with God is personal. The problem is that when people start something exciting, even going to church, with great inspiration and strength to change the world, eventually they begin to lose heart and struggle to keep going, not seeing that the church provides them with the opportunity to serve. Dr. Aana Marie Vigen says, "The church must also be open to allowing the world, especially the poor and

oppressed, to show the church how much it has yet to accomplish to become fully the church."

Let's use this Lent as a training season, a boot camp if you wish, and by serving the world around us with strength and compassion, we will develop a new and deeper capacity for resilience. Come to church to hear the series of sermons; Irrepressible - Find the resilience you need.

~Pastor Lydia



March 13, 2022

Men's Ministry

On the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, Men are welcome to attend Scripture reading, fellowship, and breakfast at the home of Bud Barr. The fun starts at 8:00 AM!

If you have any questions, please contact the office or Bud Barr.

Thank you, Bud, for opening your house and heart.



The Action Boutique Discovery Center

The Action Boutique Discovery Center is an Educational center aimed at ages 6-12. It is located in the International Hall of our church. The grand opening is set for April 2, 2022, for the public and a soft opening in March for the children of Francis Street First.

Thank you, Congregation for supporting this New Places For New People Mission. Thank you, to everyone who helped with the creation of the Center.

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry will be meeting Tuesday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sunshine room. We have a strong core group of dedicated members. However, we are encouraging others to join us, because we have such a large range of activities to cover.

During this meeting we will be talking about our Action Boutique, Easter plans, UMCOR Sunday, and our educational programs.

We thank Allison Gentry for heading up our soup collection for InterServ. Her efforts secured 478 items. Well done! Thanks to everyone who helped support this important cause.

Please let a member of the Ministry know if you had an Outreach project you would like for us to sponsor even if you are unable to attend our meetings.

~Candy Sheehan, Outreach Chair

Saint Patrick's Day history

Magonus Sucatus was born around the 387 A.D. to a Roman Imperial Official in Britain. This was just a few years after Christianity became the official state religion of the Roman Empire.

Kidnapped by Irish Pirates at about age 16, he was sold into slavery to their native land. For the next 6 years, he found comfort in prayer. One night, God spoke to him of an escape plan.

After his grand escape, Magonus felt the calling to become a Priest. He studied at the Monastery founded by Saint Martin of Tours. Magonus eventually became known as Patricius. The Latin version of Patrick.

Later in life, Patrick returned to the island of his captivity. He was appointed the Bishop of Ireland by the Pope.

It is believed that Patrick used a three-leaf shamrock, which is native to the land, to help teach the people the "three-in-one" of the Trinity.

How do you celebrate March 17th, Saint Patrick's Day? Do you wear green? Do you pinch those not wearing green? What kind of meal do you enjoy?

This year, Saint Joseph, MO will host its 36th annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 12th.

The Francis Street First Choir

Come join The Francis Street First Choir!

Practices are after Sunday Worship services (11:15 AM).

We sing. We laugh. We have fun.

March Meetings

- 3rd: Trustee Meeting @ 4:00 PM
- 8th: Outreach Ministry @ 10:30 AM
- 9th: Nurture Ministry @ 4:00 PM
- 9th: Ad. Council @ 6:30 PM
- 17th: Stewardship Ministry @ 11:30 AM

A message from our Lay Leader

During this season of Lent, we devote time to prayer, fasting and giving.

We have plenty to pray about. Our Covid crisis has not passed. The situation in Ukraine is dire. Our country is divided in many ways. And our churches are struggling to remain relevant in an ever-changing world.

Take time to pray. We have reason to have hope. Thanks to science and cooperation, we are beating Covid. Putin has taught us that dictators are dangerous, and the democracies of the world are more united because of that. Our church is working hard to develop ways to reach out and minister to our community. Our prayers will be heard.

Fasting is a self-imposed discipline devoted to spending time with God. It allows one to refocus on God and often gives clarity when facing important decisions. We often choose to give up desserts, coffee, or television during Lent, but please check out the list of suggestions a devoted Lenten following friend gave me. Implementing those suggested fasts will be helpful to you as well as all of those you encounter during the day.

We all feel the need to give. Our mailboxes are full of pleas from worthy nonprofits. Our televisions are populated with religious charlatans promising prosperity and threatening end times to get our money. Amazon burns a hole in our billfold with the promise of the next must have item.

Support the organizations and ministries you are passionate about and give to Francis Street First. Remember we have many ways to give should you find yourself short of cash.

- Teach a Bible study,
- Help provide snacks for Coffee with the Pastor.
- Clean an area not included in our janitor's job description.
- Talk with Pastor Lydia when you have ideas for needed ministry.

Approach this Lenten season with hope, gratitude, and purpose. Pray, fast, and give. It will enrich your life.

Thank you, to those who participated in the Special Church Charge Conference. The three items that were voted on, passed (Endowment Committee creation, Spending Policy with amendment, and new 2022 leaders.

~Candy Sheehan, Lay Leader

Ideas of Fasting

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Trustees

Hi All,

On January 11, 2022, we voted in new officers. The Chairman is Becky Hickok, Vice Chair is Mike Perry, Secretary is Nick Anderson & Treasure is Bob Douglass. Our church is making a lot of changes that we should all be very excited with. As plans are finalized, I will put them in the Newsletter.

Have a Blessed Day,
Everyone!

Becky Hickok, Trustee Chair

Nurture Ministry Updates

Our very active Nurture Ministry in February -

☐ Delivered Communion sets to our 9 homebound members

☐ Delivered Valentine cards and candy to our homebound

☐ Hosted Pastor Lydia's 3rd Sunday Meet and Greet. (Special thanks to Candy Sheehan for her homemade cheesecakes.)

☐ Sent cards for known February birthdays and anniversaries

Looking forward -

☐ March 3rd - pick up 1st Sunday Communion sets for delivery before March 6th to our homebound

☐ March 9th - Nurture Ministry meeting, 4pm, Sunshine Room

☐ March 20th - 3rd Sunday Coffee with the Pastor in Kemper Hall following the Service

January gifts total: \$7,053

February gifts total: \$5,940

Thank you, for supporting our Missions.

Irish Prayer in honor of Saint Patrick's Day

May the hand of God protect us, May the word of God direct us. May thy Salvation, O' Lord, be always ours this day and evermore. Amen.

Please pray for our Brothers and Sisters

Mike Gentry, Sandy Livingston, Joni Westcott, Katie Walters (sister of Ashley Rollett), Dr. Caselman (a SJSD teacher). Sheila (Recovery from COVID), Wayne (friend of Beth Schreck), Todd Roseberry (cancer), Dean Thomas, Tim Orman (friend of Susan Wright), Carol Auxier, Bill Silvey (husband of Luetta), Jim Honeycutt, Sue Wagner, Beverly Walley, Kari Lise Hagan, Pat Ward (friend of Barb Aubrey), Jean Bucher (friend of Susan Wright), Joe Graves (father of Jennifer Tanguay. Surgery on March 7), and for peace between Ukraine and Russia.