

Faith

United Church Of Christ

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 am**

March 2021



Lent was originally established for new Christians, those who experienced a call. They were to spend 40 days and 40 nights preparing for their baptism. If at the end they still wanted to follow Jesus, then on Easter Eve they would be baptized as the sun was rising in the east, signaling the new day, the new era, inaugurated because of the Resurrection. The powerful significance for them was to prepare for their vocation as Christians the same way Jesus prepared for His vocation as the Messiah: 40 days of introspection and self-examination.

Later the church used the 40 days of Lent as a time of renewal for those who were already Christians because at a certain point everyone in the empire...was baptized as infants. So the time of Lent was used as a time of renewal and recommitment to the Christian life, examining our lives in light of the One we are supposed to follow.

What is Lent Today?

Today, Lent is observed during the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) and Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021). It is a time to set aside our wants and needs to come humbly and meek before God, recognizing our need for a Savior above all. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, reminds us that we are from dust and return to dust. (Genesis 3:17-19). Ash Wednesday serves as a reminder that we will die and face the consequences of sin. The meaning and purpose of Lent are to reflect on our sinful nature and praise God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to serve, live, and die for our sins. Lent ends on the glorious day of Easter when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We are no longer cursed to the grave but our sins are forgiven.

Lent continues into the Holy Week which has the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday commemorates the day Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples, washed their feet, and retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer. It is during the Passover Meal that Jesus institutes the act of Communion and remembering His sacrifice.

Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified. It is called "good" because of the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. Without this "good" day, we would not have the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life in heaven.

Observing Lent and Its Purpose

Many choose to observe Lent with fasting and prayer. The act of fasting is simply abstaining from something in order to focus on something else. When we give up something, such as food, social media, or TV, we are given time to reflect on our faith and grow our relationship with God. As we sacrifice something we often turn to, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Fasting and prayer during Lent also symbolize the 40 days and nights that Jesus fasted in the desert as he was tempted by the devil. It is through Lent that we come into the realization of our own sin, connect with Jesus during his temptation, and experience freedom from sin through his death and resurrection.

Both the Old Testament and New Testament give us guidelines and examples for how to fast. Whether you choose to observe Lent with daily Scripture reflections or fasting and prayer, there are helpful Bible verses for remembering the sacrifice and knowing how to fast. May these Scriptures encourage your faith and strengthen your relationship with Jesus.

Prayer

Oh God, Whatever I can give up for Lent will never match what you gave. I'm not able to do what you have done, and my small actions serve only as desperate wildflowers waving in an open field of your mercy, in surrender to your majesty. As I clear away distractions you invite me to let go of, hear my prayer of gratitude. Thank you for the ultimate sacrifice of your only Son, Jesus, so that I can know that no matter what the world tempts me with... there is power to overcome. In Jesus' name, Amen.



" And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven "

James 5 : 15

MARIANNE BALTROTSKY
TOM BAZAN
PATTY BLANK
JIM BOSTIAN
BILLY BOWSER
RILEY BRANNAN
TRISH BRANNAN
CLARKE BURELL
BILL CLEM
BRYAN DINKLE
MARION DOUGHERTY
JOHN DREISONSTOK
ROGER FARBER
BRADLEY FLOOK JR
ANGIE FORREST
SHARON GETZANDANNER
DOT GLASSCOCK
BOB GOEDERT
EMILIE GOEDERT
JERRY GOEDERT JR
BOB HARTMAN
BECKY HAUGH-KOBS

JERRY HAYES
LILLIE BELL HOBBS
DAKOTA HOUCK
DAN HOUCK
GINNY HOUCK
ROBERT KALASKI SR
SARA KNIGHT
ANTHONY MAIN
MARY FRANCES MAIN
ROBERT MARSH
PEGGY MEEUWSEN
MARGARET PASLAWSKY
JERRY PENICK
DORIS PENROD
KATHY PETERS
BOBBY REMSBERG
PATRICIA SCOTT
DONALD SHOOK
GARY SMITH JR
MELVIN SMITH
BARBARA SNOOTS
SANDY SPENCER

LINDA TROPE
PATRICK VASOLD
BOB WARNER
ROBERT WASTLER
CALLIE WATKINS
JOEL WILCOX
BILL WISSMAN
TANYA ZANGANAH
HEATHER ZIMMERMAN



OUR IN-HOME MEMBERS

Margaret Sunday
301-304-0214

Donald Shook
301-898-4336

Bob Warner
240-490-5343

To ADD or REMOVE names to :

- *Prayer List*
- *Newsletter Mailing*
- *Birthday/ Anniversary*

Please contact Jennifer Stull
mychurch.js@gmail.com
301-788-1656



GREETER

Donald Shook

ORGANIST

Mary Frances Bostian

ACOLYTES

Kevin Sunday/Ashlee Sunday/Jim Bostian

USHERS

Bill Houck / Kevin Sunday / Jennifer Stull
Doug Sunday

ALTAR GUILD

Jim & Mary Frances Bostian,
Carole Houck

CHURCH TREASURERS

Jennifer Sunday / Shirley Bazan

BULLETIN + NEWSLETTER & MAILING

Jennifer Stull

HOMEWOOD Auxiliary Representative

Carole Houck

FELLOWSHIP MORNING

Jennifer Stull

CONSISTORY BOARD

Mary Catherine Martz, Calvin Woodward,
Carole Houck, Doug Sunday,
Jennifer Sunday, Jennifer Stull

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Carole Houck, Jim Bostian, Doug Sunday,
Bill Houck, Jennifer Stull



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Faith United Church of Christ



Donald Shook's surgery is scheduled for March 25th to remove a spur off his leg.

Bob Hartman has been in and out of the hospital and nursing home recuperating from his surgery.



March 14

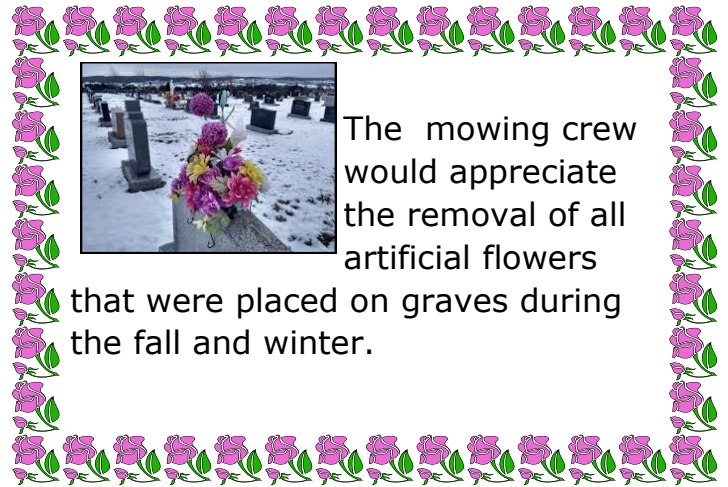


Thanks again to the **Houck** brothers for clearing the snow from the sidewalk, parking lot, and lane after the most recent snowstorms.



MAR 6 - LOBERTA STALEY
MAR 10 - BOB HARTMAN
MAR 10 - RICK HOUCK
MAR 12 - DOUG SUNDAY

MAR 18 - BOB WARNER
MAR 26 - CINDY SCHALL
MAR 28 - KRISTI HOUCK GORDON



The mowing crew would appreciate the removal of all artificial flowers that were placed on graves during the fall and winter.



NOT MY WILL

By Erma Grove

At first I prayed that God
Would take away the pain,
And with His healing touch
Would make me whole again;

But then I saw the Christ
Hanging on Calvary,
And as my eyes met his
I slowly changed my plea

To, "Not my will, but Thine—"
And as I spoke that prayer
I found the needed strength
To rise above my care.

Whatever cross I bear
I never need to fear;
While I can breathe that prayer
I know that God is near.



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for 2021 will be received on Sunday, March 14. Offerings will continue to be received the following Sunday. Special offering envelopes will be provided. If you would like to contribute by other than cash, you may write a check to Faith UCC -- put in the memo "One Great Hour of Sharing". If you are unable to attend services, you can mail to Faith UCC.

CONSISTORY

The Consistory Board members were installed on Sunday, February 21, by Tim Waybright.

At the Consistory Meeting on Sunday, February 21, the following were reelected as officers: President, Mary Catherine Martz; Vice President, Calvin Woodward; and Secretary, Carole Houck.

NEXT CONSISTORY MEETING
MARCH 7 @ 1:30 PM

Self Confidence

Self Confidence

One businessman was in debt and couldn't figure out a way out of it. Creditors were pressing him. Suppliers were demanding for a payment. He was sitting on a bench in the park with his head down, thinking what could save the company from bankruptcy. Suddenly, an old man appeared in front of him.

"I see that something is bothering you," he said. After listening to the businessman, the old man said: "I think I can help you."

He asked the businessman, what his name was, wrote him a check and said: "Take this money. We will meet here exactly in one year, and you will be able to return it to me at that time."

After that, he turned around and disappeared just as suddenly as he appeared. The businessman saw a check in his hands for an amount of 500 thousand dollars, signed by John Rockefeller, one of the richest people in the world at that time!

'I could end all of my problems in no time!' – He thought. But instead, the businessman decided to put the check into his safe. Only one thought about its existence gave him strength to find a solution to save his business.

With the return of his optimism, he concluded profitable deals. During a couple of months he got out of debt and started to earn money again.

Exactly one year later, he returned to the park with the same check. At the agreed time the old man appeared again. And at the moment, when the businessman wanted to return the check and to share his story of success, a nurse ran up and grabbed the old man.

"I'm so glad, I caught him!" She exclaimed. "I hope he wasn't bothering you. He always runs away from the house and tells people he is John Rockefeller."

The businessman was bemused.

During the whole year he was spinning and building a business, buying and selling, convinced that he had half a million dollars tucked away in his safe. And suddenly he understood that it's NOT the money, real or imaginary, that turned his life around. It was his new CONFIDENCE and BELIEF that gave him strength to achieve everything that he had now.

