

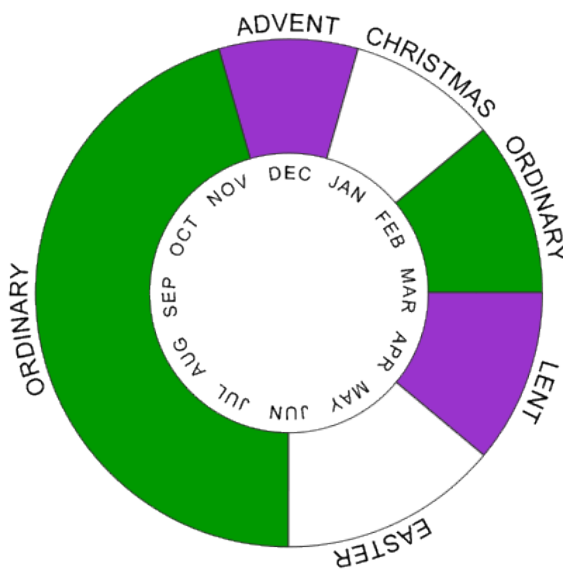


METHODIST MESSENGER

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Understanding the Liturgical Calendar



Methodist churches, like most Christian churches, divide the year into a cycle of celebrations based on events in the life of Jesus and the early church. In a sense, Methodists relive or commemorate the entire life of Jesus every year. The Liturgical Calendar is literally an ordering of worship services mirroring this pattern of events. We have entered the season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday, and ends in Holy Week or Passion Week, which

Liturgical Calendar Dates

ADVENT - November 27-December 24, 2011

CHRISTMAS – December 25, 2011 – January 8, 2012

EPIPHANY – January 8, 2012

ASH WEDNESDAY – February 22, 2012

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – February 26, 2012

PALM SUNDAY – April 1, 2012

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 5, 2012

GOOD FRIDAY – April 6, 2012

EASTER – April 8, 2012

PENTECOST – May 27, 2012

TRINITY SUNDAY – June 3, 2012

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 7, 2012

REFORMATION DAY – October 28, 2012

ALL SAINTS DAY – November 4, 2012

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY – November 25, 2012

is the week that commemorates Jesus' last week before his crucifixion. Palm Sunday marks his entrance into Jerusalem; Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday marks the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples; Good Friday marks his crucifixion. The Liturgical Year begins with the first Sunday of Advent and continues through Christ the King Sunday in November.

ADVENT = 4 Sundays

EASTERTIDE = 50 days + 6 Sundays

CHRISTMAS TIDE = 12 days

REFORMATION SUNDAY = nearest Sunday to October 31

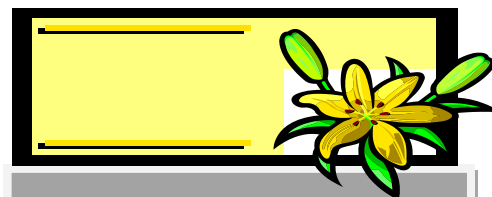
LENT = 40 days + 6 Sundays

PENTECOST = 1 week

CHRIST THE KING = 1 week



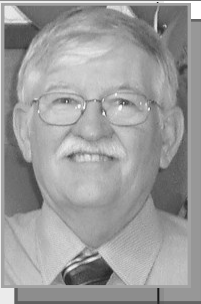
Everyone is invited!
Sunday Celebration
Sunday, March 4
9:45am
Coffee, juice & donuts are served



PLEASE JOIN US:
9:45am Sunday School

Decorative flourish

10:55am
Worship Service



Message from the Pastor

As we continue to participate in the season of Lent, I wanted to address a question that I was asked several times last week. What is Ash Wednesday and the purpose of placing ashes on our forehead? In an article titled Lent 101, Reverend Penny Ford offered these explanations:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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. At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The minister will make a small cross on the 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.

Not only did we celebrate the tradition of smudging ashes on our forehead at the Ash Wednesday service; we had what I hope becomes a tradition of sharing a meal and games with each other. Thanks to everyone who brought food, drinks and games! We had a wonderful time of fellowship.

Two ideas for adding to your Lent experience are creating a prayer rhythm (say a prayer for someone every time you hear an ambulance, an email alert or brush your teeth for example) and writing a thank you letter to someone special in your life each week. This puts an emphasis on gratitude, not just repentance.



Created as an exercise in a 6th grade Sunday School class, a 50 word summary of the bible is printed below. Can you recite the story to which each line refers? Could you make a better list?

- God made.**
- Adam bit.**
- Noah arked.**
- Abraham split.**
- Joseph ruled.**
- Jacob fooled.**
- Bush talked.**
- Moses balked.**
- Pharaoh plagued.**
- People walked.**
- Sea divided.**
- Tablets guided.**
- Promise landed.**
- Saul freaked.**
- David peeked.**
- Prophets warned.**
- Jesus born.**
- God walked.**
- Love talked.**
- Anger crucified.**
- Hope died.**
- Love rose.**
- Spirit flamed.**
- Word spread.**

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

Romans 4: 13

March Bible Verses

March 4—Second Sunday in Lent

- ◆ Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
- ◆ Psalm 22: 23-31
- ◆ Romans 4: 13-25
- ◆ Mark 8: 31-38

March 11—Third Sunday in Lent

- ◆ Exodus 20: 1-17
- ◆ Psalm 19
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- ◆ John 2: 13-22

March 18—Fourth Sunday in Lent

- ◆ Numbers 21: 4-9
- ◆ Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

◆ Ephesians 2: 1-10

◆ John 3: 14-21

March 25—Fifth Sunday in Lent

- ◆ Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- ◆ Psalm 51: 1-12
- ◆ Hebrews 5: 5-10
- ◆ John 12: 20-33

April 1—Palm Sunday

- ◆ Mark 11: 1-11 (Palms)
- ◆ Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 (Palms)
- ◆ Isaiah 50: 4-9a
- ◆ Philippians 2:5-11
- ◆ Mark 14: 1—15:47

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ⇒ **March 27—UMW Lunch for OPSU students at the Wesley Foundation**
- ⇒ Don't forget to pick up your March/April edition of the **Upper Room**. The Upper Room also offers a phone app so you can carry your daily devotional with you!
- ⇒ The church family would like to offer condolences to Bob and Sue Fleming and family on the passing of both of their mothers over the past month. **Helen Grandy** entered the church triumphant on Monday, February 6 in Denver, CO. **Willie Fleming** entered the church triumphant on Thursday, February 16 in Stratford, TX.

⇒ Congratulations to **Randal** (Pugh) and **Joey Jaeger** on their marriage, celebrated at the church on Monday, February 20!

Please mark your calendar with the 2012 Blood Drive dates:

- ◇ **March 5**
- ◇ **July 16**
- ◇ **October 8**
- ◇ **December 10**

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Jeremiah 31: 33

MARCH MILESTONES!



Happy Birthday...

- ◆ Charly Roach—7th
- ◆ Kayla Yates—21st
- ◆ Rose Baber—28th
- ◆ Ken Woodward—31st

Happy Anniversary...

Bob and Sue Fleming—15th



Please keep our list up-to-date; contact Christi Roach, 580-423-7231 with information.

The Story Behind Your Favorite Hymns

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Words: William H. Parker, 1885 (Matthew 19: 13-15; 21:8-9; Mark 10: 13-16; 11: 8-10; John 12:13)

Music: Frederick A. Challinor, 1903

Into the city I'd follow the children's band, waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand; one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

William Parker's Sunday School text captures the imagination of children as they ask to hear the stories of Jesus. The text describes Jesus' blessing of them and his

triumphal entry into Jerusalem from the viewpoint of a child. Here it is the **child** who says: "Yes, I would sing loudest hosannas, Jesus is King." The last stanza is appropriate especially for Passion/Palm Sunday.

#277 UMH



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We're on the web!

www.texhomaumc.org

Prayer List

Please keep these special requests in your heart and mind this month.

Joyce Allard
Kevin Allard
Velma Barton
Logan Baylor
John Buster
Christine Cluck
Mike & Mary Coffey
Roy Diaz
Niki Erickson
Nick Evans
Kinley Hall
Marc Harland
Jean Hensley
Arla Twombly Hiner
Tomisene & Francis Ingram
Denise Keylon
The Killian family (Blaine)
Donna Kuykendall
Ray Loosemore
Monica Martinez

Sawyer Meyer
Tina Mills
Duane Mitchell
Retta Norris
Derreck Nye
Manuel Padilla
JA Palmer
Paula Palmer
David Pugh
Wade Pugh
Jimmy Purvin
Christi Shearman
Jim Smith
Brad Teegarden
Roy Thompson
Elmer White
Maurine Wilson
Mildred Yates
Our Military Men &
Women

**PRAY FOR
MOISTURE**



**ASSISTED LIVING
CENTERS:**

Alice Hollis, in Weatherford,
TX

NURSING HOMES:

Corky Bain
Glenda Ruth Berry
Bud and Lora Church
Maxine Dawson
Yvonne Elliott
Dorothy Johnson
Donna Millard

If you know of anyone who needs to be added or if this list needs to be edited, please contact Steve at the church office: (580) 423-7231 or (405) 747-4959 cell.

LENTEN READINGS:

Final Words by Adam Hamilton

24 Hours by Adam Hamilton

Mosaic by Shane Stanford

40 Days of Fruitful Living and *Five Days of Fruitful Living* by Bishop Robert Schnase

Serving Our Faith Community

Every United Methodist Church in the Oklahoma Conference is asked to contribute a vertical banner to be placed in the Cox Convention Center during the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Oklahoma City, July 18-21. The conference brings together representatives from 8 states. If you would like to assist with the banner project, please ask Steve for details.

