



The Grapevine - Update

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“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

– Matthew 22:36-40



Dear Friends,

February 14th Valentine’s Day reminds us that Love is at the heart of our relationships with family and friends, with spouses and co-workers, and of course with God in Jesus Christ. In this New Year, I hope we will all focus on our relationship and time with God. With a goal of “Healthy Living for Christians,” we can commit to Christian practices of (1) Prayer, (2) Bible Reading, (3) Worship, (4) Serving (volunteer work), and (5) Giving (financial gifts to God’s Church and missions). May we all grow closer to Jesus Christ and Love and Serve Him with our hearts and lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jennifer

Join Us for Sunday Worship Services

February 1 - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany / Holy Communion “Healing the Sick” *Psalm 111, Mark 1:29-39*

February 8 - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany “Life’s Hard Choices” *Psalm 147:1-11, Exodus 1:15-22*

Special Event: Boy Scout Sunday and flag ceremony

February 15 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany “Jesus Changes Lives” *Psalm 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-9*

“Bells & Brunch Sunday” - with Excelsior Bell Choir. Please invite a friend. Everyone is welcome!

February 22 - First Sunday in Lent “Jesus’ Baptism and Beginnings” *Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-13*

- Video 1: ‘Baptism and Temptation’ from “The Way” a Lenten Study by Adam Hamilton.

- Sunday School Children’s Play “Noah’s Ark”

* Daily Lenten Devotions “Into the Wilderness” (scripture and message) available at church



February 18 - Ash Wednesday 7:30pm

Start the Lenten season with ashes and the sign of the cross.

Worship will focus on Jesus, prayer, and meditative music.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday. Lent commemorates Jesus’ fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness. The only way our Lord’s forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence. Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus’ forgiveness.



OXFORD / ORION FISH FOOD PANTRY NEWS



"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Our church's mission focus this season is on the FISH Food Pantry. We are collecting non-perishable food items every Sunday and making a big effort on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. Please bring your food donations to church and drop them in the boxes by the upstairs kitchen. Please check expiration dates too. If you'd like to volunteer at the FISH Food Pantry, please see Mary Garrard (810-797-5840).

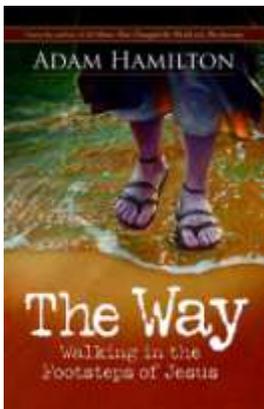
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School kids are learning great Bible story lessons and practicing the "Noah's Ark" play with puppets (to present on Feb. 22 at Sunday worship). Sunday School is important for children in growing their Christian faith and identity. Please pray for the children, parents, and teachers, and think about inviting a new child/new friend to Sunday School. See Jennifer Moore (248-890-3765)



WEDNESDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Starting February 18th at 10:30am the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group invite you to join them as they follow Pastor Adam Hamilton to the Holy Land as he explores the life and ministry of Jesus Christ in this DVD study. Using videos shot on location, you are taken to the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and the wilderness where he was tempted. You'll see the ruins of ancient Capernaum, where Jesus healed the sick, and ascend the mountain where he gave his most famous sermon. You'll travel across the Sea of Galilee, where he calmed the wind and waves, and you'll visit the last remaining community of Samaritans in the world. Then you'll visit Jerusalem, where Jesus spent his final days. Join us! See Sue Rizzo (248-628-1787) for more information.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - RACHEL CIRCLE

Don't throw away those holiday cards, the Rachel Circle is collecting them for St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Nevada where they repurpose them to give again. Please bring your Christmas and All Occasion cards (only the fronts are needed please & they may not have writing on them or be from Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings) to a box by the office. The Rachel Circle ladies invite you to join them for brunch at Lilli's Diner [51 S. Washington St., Oxford] on February 9th at 10am.

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

3 volunteers needed for cleaning Thursdays (8:30 - 10am) C4's group. See Charlie Garrard (810-797-5840) or Frank Enekes (248-390-2210). 2 volunteers needed to mop the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen (2 hours on Saturday preferably).

See Trustee Tony Rizzo (248-628-1787) as soon as possible.

LITURGISTS (Please see Gail Enekes - 248-390-2210),

GREETERS (Please see Ginny Conrad - 248-922-008),

ACOLYTES (Please sign up on the kiosk),

AND USHERS ARE ALSO NEEDED.

PLEASE SIGN UP!

