

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Our Lenten Focus



Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

-Copied



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Live Stream Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Solid Ground Youth

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 5:00 p.m. Bible Study Millie's home

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Handbell Choir
- 5:30 p.m. W.O.W. Children's Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Youth

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 20. Amanda Canard, Hubert Hatfield
- 21. Frank Webb
- 22. Brent Chaney, J. Ketchum,
Maizey Ketchum, Hunter Ledbetter,
Wendy Perry
- 23. Angie Kyle
- 24. Debra Batton

Kathy Coker

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Oakes

Mary Stigler Thompson

Jackie & Bryan McDonald

Karlen Turbeville

Ethel Ann & Jeff McCoy

Paddling Through Lent—and Life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling.

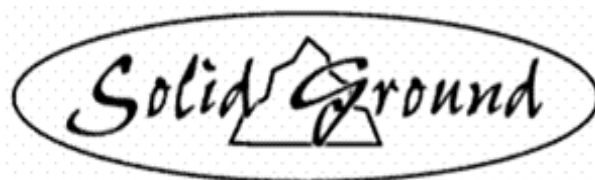
-adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*



For the month of February, our series is called *Power to Serve*. Our lesson this Sunday, "Chances to Help," shows us how we have the opportunity to help people. Paul was under house arrest and could not leave. However, people came to him. Paul used the opportunity to share the Gospel with them, and they also helped him by bringing him food and other things he may have needed.

W.O.W. Wednesday

Wednesday night Bible Study for Grades K-6th resumed in January and begins at 5:30 p.m. The Bible Study will continue to be Bible-in-Crafts. The children have enjoyed learning about so many of God's faithful followers in the Book of Genesis while creating crafts and activities. We are currently learning about the life of Moses.



Sunday and Wednesday Night Youth Group will begin a new study. We will be talking about entertainment, music, and social media. We will be discussing the progression of the types of entertainment throughout the past decades and how we have been manipulated to accept, become numb to, or just ignore the fact that wrong is being presented as right. We will connect scripture to these facts and talk about how/what we can avoid being too pulled in.

M28 CAMP

Sign up for M28 Camp at Lake Junaluska has begun. The youth are asked to sign up ASAP due to limited availability. Sign-up includes a \$50 deposit to secure their spot. Camp dates are Friday, July 5- Tuesday, July 9. The total cost is \$350.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Greeters	D'Ann Adams/Marilyn Burnett
Scripture	Luke 8:40-48
Sermon	“The Hem of His Cloak”
Flowers	Clayton Nagle Family

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY

18. 1st Sunday in Lent	Luke 4:1-13
19. Elijah will come	Malachi 4:5-6
20. To break every yoke	Isaiah 58:6-8
21. He will bring justice	Isaiah 42:1-4
22. His face shone	Exodus 34:29-35
23. Just and holy God	Psalm 99
24. Transformed by the Spirit	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2