Journey to the Cross

Easter is early this year: April 4th. Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 28th. The Worship leaders and I are developing plans now. Customarily, I know that you have hosted a Seder meal open to the entire community. I would love to do that! Closer to the time, we will have to see where things stand, in terms of the virus and whether we are able to do this safely. We will certainly investigate this.

Also, I believe, local religious leaders traditionally offer a Good Friday “unity” service open to the community.

The season of Lent and preparation begins on Wednesday, February 17th with Ash Wednesday. Lent began as a time of fasting and preparation for baptism and then became a time of penance for all Christians. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful, nonverbal way to mark this time of repentance leading to reconciliation.

A common practice in some congregations is to distribute cards on which we are invited to individually confess a sin or hurtful, unjust characteristic. Then, they are collected and taken to the altar for burning.

Instead of doing this in the sanctuary, we will mark Ash Wednesday with a pre-recorded video which can be viewed at home and where you will be invited to write on a card or slip of paper a confession of your broken state. You will then dispose of them safely after symbolically burning (by tearing) them.

I hope you will join in as a way to mark the beginning of this journey to the cross. Let us walk together, remember our sin, and finally, see it die on the cross for our sake and experience the promise of resurrection Easter Day!

Blessing, prayer, and praise to you during this Holy time.

Grace and Truth,

Esther
Birthdays

1 Avett Savarimuthu
3 John Skillman
4 Kelsea Savarimuthu
5 Vicki Iliff
7 Gail Kantz
9 Louise Pitt
11 Diana Jones
14 Cindy Tonjes
19 Betty Collier
Lucy Perez
20 Bill Metcalf
21 Rozanne Gould
27 Allan Gauss

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem, Israel and neighboring nations in the Middle East, for our sister church in Violeta Cuba, for God’s mission through our congregation, for victims of violence and natural disaster around the world. Please pray for Bishop & Mrs. Ken Carter (Rev. Pam), District Superintendent Bob Bushong (Jean), Pastor Esther Robinson and all of our church family.

Please also pray for: (2) Thalia Hiers, Family of Thomas Ricketts Sr., (2) Dick Hoffman, Ron Norwood (cousin of Ramona Rowland), (3) Ramona Rowland, Pastor Esther, Barbara Price (cousin of Nancy Acree), Bob Colby (friend of Nancy Acree), the Jen Johnson family.

(Please ‘renew’ names above every four weeks as needed)
(c) Claudine Barr, Kenneth Carter, Landon Chance, Bev Clark, Lonnie Clark, Richard & Sharon Crocker, Gary Gullie, Terry Gullie, Vilma Gullie, Trinity Elizabeth Hunt-Ferry, Margaret Kantz, Marv & Iris Karickhoff, Gordon Lang, Alan Lassiter, Sephra Learmonth, Jerry McGill, Max Mayer, Wayne Miller, Allan Morris, Linda Rogers, Ramona Rowland, Landon Schroeder, DickTardy, Betty Thalman, Carol Traster, Ashlyn Turner.

Homebound, Nursing or other facilities: Jean Boyte, Edie Ellis, Lois Harner, H.L. Hiers, Phyllis Howe, Jan Huey, Gloria Hunt, Robin Reese, Lloyd May, Carol McClure, Barney Moore, Norma Music, Jack & Louise Pitt, Polly Stephens, Jean Wright.

In Military Service: Gary Charney, Kalan Turner.

Homebound and Care Facilities:

The Grove - 512 11th St South - Lake Wales, 33853
Lois Harner, Barney Moore, Jean Wright, Jan Huey.

Water’s Edge - 10 Grove Ave. W - Lake Wales 3853
Jean Boyte, Edie Ellis, Gloria Hunt.

Medilodge- 1011 Meredian Street - Sault Saint Marie, MI 49783
Norma Music

Tu 2nd 9:00 am—Disciple Bible Study III
7:00 pm—Man Up Ministry (FH)

Th 4th 6:00 pm—Disciple Bible Study I

Su 7th In-person worship & Broadcast #47

Mo 8th 1:00 pm—Lake Wales Quilters (FH)

Tu 9th 9:00 am—Disciple Bible Study III

Su 14th In-person worship & Broadcast #48
Happy Valentine’s Day!

Tu 16th 9:00 am—Disciple Bible Study III
7:00 pm—Man Up Ministry (FH)

We 17th Ash Wednesday—Lent begins

Th 18th 6:00 pm—Disciple Bible Study I

Newsletter submissions due

Sa 20th 10:00 am—Community Kitchen (cook)

Su 21st In-person worship & Broadcast #49
12:00 pm—Community Kitchen (serve)

Mo 22nd 5:00 pm—Trustees
6:00 pm—Finance & Council

Tu 23rd 9:00 am—Disciple Bible Study III

Th 25th 6:00 pm—Disciple Bible Study I

Fr 26th 6:00 pm—Family Fun Night at church

Su 28th In-person worship & Broadcast #50

February 21st

In Need of Your Prayers
Culinary Corner...

**Catfish Allison**  
(a great Lenten meal!)

What You'll Need:
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup (1/2-stick) butter, softened
- 3 scallions, sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire

What to Do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients except catfish; mix well.
3. Place fish on prepared baking sheet. Spread mixture evenly over fish.
4. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until fish is golden and flakes easily with a fork. Serve immediately.

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**2021 Flower Calendar**

The new 2021 Flower Calendar is here, located on the hallway bulletin board outside of the church office. Flowers may be placed on the altar in honor or in memory of loved ones on the Sunday of your choice. If you prefer, a financial contribution may be made for use of one of the artificial arrangements.

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**Saints and Sinners Jazz Band**  
**And**  
**New Orleans Nighthawks**  

They're back—tell all your friends!

You are invited to "attend" some early Jazz concerts of Hymns, Blues and pop songs, mostly from the 1920’s and 30’s.... presented (Broadcasted) from the Church by two bands: the “Saints and Sinners” Jazz Band and the “New Orleans Nighthawks” Jazz band. Both bands are led by church members John and Diana Skillman, and include other members from our Church and the Community. In these COVID times, the one-hour concerts are presented only on-line (with no audience present), every other Friday Night at 8 PM. The Church gets most of any on-line tip$ we receive (instructed in each broadcast or sent directly to the church appropriately noted). You can tune-in if you type in your browser at the top (address bar): Facebook.com/John.SkillMusic Or... send an email to John Skillman a few days in advance of the concerts at: JLSKILL@aol.com.
Did you know...?
Our church receives $2.00 credit from Staples for every used ink cartridge?! Please help us by saving your today! Any brand, any size!

PULL TABS for Charity
Thousands of families with children stay at the Ronald McDonald House, as our daughter and son-in-law did when Cade was in the hospital. One ongoing fundraiser is the collection of aluminum pull tabs. If you want to help, we will gladly send your tabs to Woodmeade Elementary, where the students at Cade’s school have collected over 300 pounds of can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Keep up the good work!

Thank you- Vicki Iliff

Estate Gifts
A “last will and testament” is our final chance to make a witness to our faith in Jesus when we remember to include His mission, through the church, in our estate planning!

CHIldren’s Ministry Team
Please continue to pray as we strive to serve families with children. If you would like to be a part of the team please contact the office at 676-2516.

Our next Children’s Ministry meeting : TBD
Please consider joining!

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY TEAM

MAN UP
Men’s Ministry
1st & 3rd Tuesday
year round
7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Join Man-Up, a band of brothers as they study God’s word together and hold each other accountable to be true men of God. All men are welcome to attend. Contact: Robert Williams at: RMWsec@aol.com

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you shop at Amazon you can support your church just by shopping!
Simply choose First United Methodist Church of Lake Wales as your charity, then go to smile.amazon.com

Go to www.members.InstantChurchDirectory.com to view the directory online, If you do not have an email address listed with the church, please send it by email to: office@fumclw.org RE: Directory email, and include your name if it is not obvious in your email address!
Thank you to everyone that signed up to adopt one of our preschool classes. Due to the pandemic we need to make some adjustment to how volunteers can assist the classroom. Our goal is to keep our children, teachers and volunteers safe. At this time, we have one VPK classroom that could use volunteers to send holiday cards and maybe short inspirational notes to encourage the children. Also, it would be wonderful if the volunteers would like to purchase a children’s book for the classroom library.

In the future, we hope to add more classrooms to be adopted. I will be in touch with those that have signed up. We ask that everyone pray for the children in our preschool and their teachers.

The Children’s Ministry will send an Inspiration Card with a small Valentine treat to the children in our preschool and Candlelight Christian Academy.

Please pray for this ministry.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

My message to Jesus…

You are the one gift I treasure the most.

Times with you are really happy to remember.

I want to spend more time with you.

Today I celebrate YOU!
Color Me!

FOR THE KIDS...OR ‘YOUNG AT HEART’!
(Bring it to the church to share on our bulletin board—don’t forget to sign it!)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:37
Color Me!

FOR THE OLDER ‘YOUNG AT HEART’!
(Bring it to the church to share on our bulletin board—
don’t forget to sign it!)
WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

(Content produced by Ask the UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications)

WHY ASHES?

Ash Wednesday — officially known as the Day of Ashes — is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God.

During a Mass, a minister or pastor places the ashes on a worshiper's forehead in the shape of a cross. The ceremony is meant to show that a person belongs to Jesus Christ, and it also represents a person's grief and mourning for their sins — the same sins that Christians believe Jesus Christ gave his life for when he died on the cross.

**Ash Wednesday service**

Will be broadcasted online through our Facebook & YouTube links. Time to be announced.

In SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences to the family of Tommy Ricketts, Sr.

Our deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you seek.