

# Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

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Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in-depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.

Seek out devotions and books that can help strengthen your spiritual life.



Don't forget to move your clocks forward 1 hour at bedtime Saturday night as Daylight Savings Time begins March 9!

## SUGGESTED DISCIPLINES FOR LENT

1. Instead of watching that television show which probably has no spiritual value, call some lonely, elderly, or sick person.
2. Write a daily or weekly note to encourage different persons during the Lenten season.
3. Look for positive attributes in your “sandpaper” person. Intentionally pray for those persons with whom you have problems or even ones whom you think may dislike you.
4. Surrender negative talk. Let your speech be soft and gentle. Cultivate a life of gratitude.
5. Sacrifice pleasure reading for spiritual reading. Spend more time reading the Bible. Learn to meditate on scriptures.
6. Commit scripture to memory. Memorize a verse or verses each day, week, or other established time frame.
7. Set aside quiet time with God!
8. Purchase only essentials for yourself. Give the money saved to someone in need or to some other Kingdom-of-God cause.
9. Discipline your eating habits. Eat for fuel and not for fun or pleasure. Omit in-between-meal snacks.
10. Do a John Wesley fast one day a week. (This would be water only until 3:00 p.m.)
11. Do a partial fast (liquids only) for a day, two days, three days, or even a week.
12. Add some type of physical activity to your day/week.
13. Schedule fasting from cell phone use and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or other forms of social media.
14. All fasts should be accompanied by prayer, study, or service.
15. Volunteer your service where you discover needs such as Manna House or Boys & Girls Club.
16. Develop trigger points for prayer. For instance, say a prayer every time you brush your teeth, hear an ambulance, or check your email. Before you text someone, pray for them.



## SUNDAY, MARCH 9

- 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

## MONDAY, MARCH 10

- 6:00 p.m. Prison Bible Study

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11

- 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

- 4:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- 9-12 noon Methodist Market



- 14. Garret McClellan
- 15. Melissa Gooch  
Malinda Thompson

## Where Am I Headed?

Have you ever been driving down the road automatically—listening to the radio or letting your mind wander—only to discover as you reached a corner, “Oh, no! I’m not supposed to go to work. I’m going to \_\_\_\_\_” (some other place). Most of us have. We get used to getting in the car and heading toward our usual destination. At some point, we realize we’re not heading where we want to go. Habit has taken over.

For me, Lent is like that corner where I realize I’m not heading in the right direction. My life has been buzzing along, taking its ordinary path. Suddenly it’s Lent. It’s time to stop, think about where I’m heading, and decide if that is where I really want to go. \*In the six weeks between now and Easter I have time to take stock, to ask myself: *Where am I headed spiritually? Do I need to allow God to direct my life? Do I Need to listen more? Do I Need to learn more about God’s word? Do I need to be more responsive in my dealings with others? Do I need to serve more?*

Lent reminds us to pay attention. We won’t figure out the answers to our questions, but at least we can change direction if we need to. All we have to do is wake up and follow where God is leading us.  
*Beverly Kinego (Virginia)*

—copied

*The psalmist wrote, “You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.”*

*Psalm 16:11*

*\* There are actually 4 more weeks until Easter.*



For the month of March we will begin a new series, *Jesus is Our Friend and Savior*. Each week we will have a lesson about Jesus and the sacrifices that He made for us.

Jesus Offers Eternal Life - Meeting in the Night - Nicodemus.

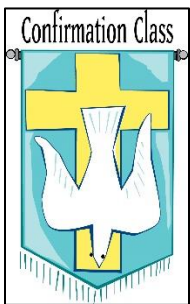
Jesus Forgives - One Very Amazing Day - The Four Friends.

Jesus Accepts - Jesus and the Man in the Tree - Zacchaeus

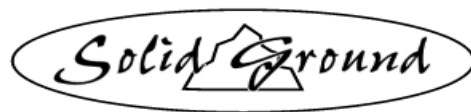
Jesus Opens the Scriptures - The Stranger - The Road to Emmaus

### **HISKIDZ/W.O.W. WEDNESDAY**

Children's Bible Study meets every Wednesday. Our schedule will be as always. Bible Study at 5:30 pm, followed by snack supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15. We will continue to craft through the Bible. We are studying lessons about David as he prepares to take over as King of Israel.



Confirmation Classes will be held on Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7, at Mary Lou and Owen Richards' place. You will be contacted if this pertains to your child.



### **Youth Bible Study and Small Group**

Youth Bible Study is back, and we will be meeting every Sunday and Wednesday evening for a time of fellowship and group time together. Our Youth Bible Study on Sunday Nights will be studying Revelation. Each Wednesday we will cover Life Application Lessons.

### **M28 Camp –Date June 29 - July 2, 2025**

We have registered for camp and more information will be sent by text in the weeks to come. Payment installment dates will be sent out soon.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025**

Greeters	Angie & Archie Edgar/Pam & Hubert Hatfield
Scripture	Romans 10:1-15
Sermon	<b>“What About Israel?”</b>
Flowers	Linda & Edwin McDonald

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS MARCH**

<b>9. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b>
10. A forsaken fountain	Jeremiah 2:10-13
11. Behavior born of wisdom	James 3:11-13
12. The water of life	Revelation 21:1-7
13. Testing the LORD	Exodus 17:1-7
14. Come singing with thanksgiving	Psalm 95
15. Peace with God	Romans 5:1-11