

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Where does the time go? Didn't we just celebrate Christmas? Wow, time is moving right along. The Lenten season is one of those times of the year that I look forward to. and before Ash Wednesday each year I begin searching for articles and writings concerning the Lenten season. I have read many ideas and also have read things that some people do for their own Lenten Season. I have found some great articles and I have found some articles that are just confusing.

I read an article recently that suggested that some folks give up drinking for Lent. However, it was ok to drink on March 17 for St. Patrick's Day. I also read that many folks fast a meal once a week during Lent unless you are invited to go out to dinner or there is a celebration or something. I also read that some folks when they fast a meal during the week, donate the price of the meal to a charity unless there was another need for the money. Another article said that many volunteer time to charity unless you are needed elsewhere. One of the strangest thoughts I read about that the Lenten season was a time for prayer, a time to spend with God—you know what is coming—unless your schedule wouldn't allow it.

Those ideas of Lent are "kinda goofy" aren't they? The Lenten Season is a time of preparation before Easter. It represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It a time to remind us of God's own sacrifice of His Son for you and me. It is a time to remind us of the improvements that are needed in our own lives. It is a time to celebrate God's Grace toward all of us. It is a time for preparation for the Celebration of Easter.

I think of the Lenten Season as a time I can evaluate what I can give to God and not so much a time to give up something. You know what I find out each Lenten Season? I find I cannot repay God for what He has already done for me. The grace, the gifts, the joy, the hope, the love, the forgiveness, the mercy, the healings, the answered and the unanswered prayers, etc. and the greatest gift His Son, Christ Jesus. So this season of Lent let's prepare for Easter by looking at our faith and opening our eyes and heart to all God has already done and also will do. May we give more of ourselves to Him, may we open ourselves to His service. Revelation 20:3 reads: **“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”**

We join in St. Andrew's worship service each Sunday morning at 10:30 am and our ZOOM Bible Study each week at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

Our Maundy Thursday Service is at 7 pm March 28 at Lakeview UMC. Our Good Friday Service on March 29th will be at 7pm and will be held at St. Andrew UMC. Our “Sonrise” Service will be at 7am at Lakeview UMC followed by Sunrise breakfast. Each church will be celebrating Easter in their home church at the regularly scheduled time.

We encourage and welcome everyone to attend any or all of the aforementioned services. Unless, of course, you have an excuse like the ones above. Maybe you would come, but you just washed the car and it looks like rain; maybe your dog, cat, or hamster gets lonely when you're not home with them; maybe the mailman didn't show up and you are worried about him; maybe the new Tom & Jerry cartoon is on tv; maybe it is a too pretty or a too ugly day outside to come; maybe, maybe, maybe.

Worship is about God.

Remember this scripture? John 3—

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Think about it!! Blessings, Pastor Brian

EASTER LILIES

Information needed to order Easter lilies for Easter Sunday is as follows:

in honor of _____ in memory of _____

Your name _____

Cost Per Lily is \$ 12.00 Number Ordered _____ Total Amount Due _____

Orders need to be placed by March 21, 2024.

Please include payment with your order. Thank you!



ST. ANDREW CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH

The follow activities meet weekly:

SNAP - 9:30 am to 2:30 pm Monday through Wednesday

Karate – 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Boy Scouts – 6:30 to 8:00 in Cottrell Hall

Cub Scouts – 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Cottrell Hall

Amy and Bob's small groups – 6:30 pm Wednesdays on ZOOM

Diana and Tim's small group – 11 am Thursdays on ZOOM

Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 am in Room 210

Childcare - 10:30 am in the Nursery

Morning Worship – 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Sunday, March 3 – 4:44 pm THE TABLE – with music, a meal and a message in Friendship Hall

Monday, March 4, - 4:00 PM, Trustees and Church Council, Parsonage Meeting

Thursday, March 7 – 11:00 am - Fishermen small group in Wesley Classroom

Saturday, March 23 – 1 to 2:30 pm - EGGSTRAVAGANZA Children's Easter Party

Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Service at Lakeview UMC

Friday, March 29 – 7:00 PM – Good Friday Service at St. Andrew UMC

Sunday, March 31 – 10:30 AM - Easter Morning Service at regularly scheduled time



PRAYER REQUESTS

Gary and Barbara Asbury

Emma Gandee

Bill Morrison

Don and Anna Nichols

Dick Baier

Rev. Jarrold & Debbie Lanham

Lori Young

Peg Henrich

Ann and David Estep

Sue Ann Holstein

Allison Hubbard-Jones

Peggy White's brother, James Donahew

Sherry Swayne

Jill Taylor

Mike and Tammy Sublette

Dan Rittenhouse

Bob Hubbard and Family

Clark Atkins

Janet Willingham

Diane Elswick

Please contact Randi Robinson directly with any information for the Prayer Chain.

(304) 206-6172 or by email at wvteddy@hotmail.com



CHILDREN'S CORNER

EGGSTRAVAGANZA on Saturday, MARCH 23 FROM 1 to 2:30 PM.

Lunch, Easter Egg Hunt, Story, Pinata Pull

We are asking for volunteers to help hide eggs and help with the Egg Hunt.

Also, we are asking for donations of prizes.

ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE IN ROOM 203

Reminder that the church nursery is available for newborns to three years old.

In the same room, we also have a worship-related activity for children

ages 4 to 11.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Bob Lilly at (304) 382-4183.



MARCH 2024 BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Boggess	March 7
Karen Bradley	March 23
Lynn Franklin	March 12
Craig Hinchman	March 30
Kathy Jordan	March 27
Richard King	March 10
Shirley Kirk	March 10
William Radochio	March 2
Diana Taylor	March 6

ANNIVERSARIES

Ron and Mary Baker	March 23
Kenny and Lynn Franklin	March 2
Jim and Connie Winter	March 11

We are updating our birthday and anniversary lists. Please call the church office (304)727-7114 and give us your information if you do not see your name on the list.

Thank you!



Project Graduation 2024 for St. Albans High School is now in the planning stages. This Graduation night activity allows graduates to spend the night celebrating their accomplishments with their fellow classmates. This year's activity will be held Friday, May 24 from 10 PM to 5:00 AM at the South Charleston Recreation Center.

There are several ways of supporting this activity from monetarily, merchandise, food, giftcertificates, etc. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to support this year's activity, you may make your donation in one of the following ways:

- Take your donation directly to City National Bank in St. Albans and let them know you are making a donation to Project Graduation.
- Send your donation to Project Graduation, 157 Riverbend Blvd, St. Albans, WV 25177
- Call 304-539-3539 and arrange for your donation to be picked up.

If you need more information, you may contact St. Albans High School,
304-722-021



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

CHRIST'S KITCHEN: hot dog chili, canned chicken, canned corn, 8 oz Styrofoam cups

FOOD PANTRY: instant oatmeal packets, cereal, cream of chicken soup,
Jiffy muffin mix, tea bags



SNAP

(Special Needs Adult Program)

SNAP enjoyed a busy February with bowling, bingo at the Hansford Center, a cooking lesson where we made lasagna, and a fun filled Valentines Day party.

March looks to be busy as well. We'll be playing bingo again, having a cooking class, visiting the WV Cultural Center, and seeing a play at the Alban.

As always, SNAP is grateful for your love and support, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan and Ted Danford for their generous donation. If you would like to make a donation, please do so to Special Needs Adult Program, Inc.

Did you know that we love visitors? If you would like to stop in to visit with us - to read a story or share an experience with us - we would love for you to come by.

Wishing everyone a healthy and Happy Easter, Ms Ruth, Ms Wanda, Ms Linda & our SNAP Family