



The First Word



First United Methodist Church

February 8, 2018

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH LENT?

As we discussed in our last issue of The First Word, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year, February 14. Ash Wednesday is also the first day of the holy season of Lent. In the ancient times when the people of Israel were still in Egypt as slaves, the Paschal Lamb was sacrificed so that the angel of death would pass over them, hence the celebration of Passover, a time we have read about often in the Bible. The Paschal Lamb is offered at least annually for the atonement of sin. During this season of Lent, we Christians remember the offering of our Paschal Lamb, Jesus Christ. It is a time to recall Christ's suffering and passion for the sins that we have committed. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent lasts for 40 days (Sundays don't count in the 40 days of Lent, ask me why and I'll tell you.) During this time we remember Jesus denying himself and dying for us. It is here we begin the practice of "giving up something for Lent," which is for us an act of self-denial. However, I have noticed we often give up things to benefit ourselves: desserts, chocolate, beer, coffee, smoking, etc. How about giving up something that makes you a stronger Christian? Give up saying hurtful things, exchange anger for patience, fast from worries and have faith, sacrifice some time for more prayer or Bible study. Let's consider what Jesus did for us and truly observe a HOLY Lent.

Shalom, Pastor Mike

CHRISTMAS BLESSING FOR RESIDENTS OF CHATHAM WOODS



Thanks to the generosity of the church we were able to deliver a turkey with foil baking pan, thermometer for testing doneness, freezer bags for storage of leftover meat and a \$50 gift card to purchase all the trimmings for each resident. Linda MacDonald and Janet Adams delivered the items and Nancy Ball was instrumental in getting needed supplies as well as supplying reindeer candy canes to brighten up the gifts.



Janet is pictured at Linda's house helping get everything ready to deliver and also making one of the deliveries at Chatham woods.

Residents were so thankful for the items they received, they made posts on Facebook (see below).

 **Beanie Taylor** is 😊 feeling thankful at **First United Methodist Church - Elkin**.
Dec 22 at 12:55pm • 🌐

And the turkey 🦃 to go in it as well as a Food Lion gift card for the rest of the fixings thanks to our friends at Elkin First Methodist. You couldn't possibly have better neighbors ❤️

MARDI GRAS ROLLS IN WITH PARADE AND FUN

Mardi Gras has become a wild and crazy time at FUMC. The fun began with the traditional pancake supper prepared by Boy Scout Troop 648 and concluded with our annual parade!

Mardi Gras has become a favorite at FUMC thanks to the passion and dedication of Judy Deck who once lived in New Orleans.

Mardi Gras, also known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday is the culmination of celebrations the day before Ash Wednesday. We celebrate on Wednesday before Ash Wednesday so that we can focus fully on the meaning of Ash Wednesday. A worship service with the imposition of ashes will be in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 14.



Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!
Let the Good Times Roll!

Announcements & Reminders

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: The youth had a great time at their Winter Retreat held at Lake Junaluska the weekend of January 26-28.

DID YOU GET OUR PHONE CALL?: We are now using a company, One Call Now, for our phone message system that keeps friends, family, and committee members up to date with reminders of meeting times, special service times, prayer requests and so on. If you not receive a call or text from us on Sunday, February 4 regarding cancellations due to ice, then you are not on our call list. If you would like to be added to the list or if you need to update your contact number, visit www.elkinfumc.org/one-call-now or contact Ben Wallace at the church office.

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD SUNDAY: Feb. 18 is designated as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday in the Western NC Conference. We will receive a special offering during both of our Sunday morning worship services. Please visit the website at brotherhoodsisterhood.com or see the insert in the Feb. 18 bulletin to learn more about Brotherhood/Sisterhood including how to become a member and make contributions.

ON THE MOVE DAY TRIP: The Young at Heart will be on the move Saturday, March 3. We will travel to Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA to see the musical *Bright Star*. Cost is \$35 plus money for lunch. Please register and pay Cindy Furr by February 12. Make checks payable to FUMC and note on the memo line "Barter Theatre."

TRI-C REQUESTS TOILET TISSUE: We have been asked to provide toilet tissue each month during 2018. Our goal is a total of 300 rolls each month! Please place your toilet tissue donations in the narthex or under the table in the entryway of the church office.

LAY SERVANT TRAINING: Lay Servant Training is a two-day opportunity for youth and adults to learn about ways to serve in the United Methodist Church. Appalachian District Lay Servant Training will be held on Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 21 (must attend both days) at Wilkesboro UMC. Registration and a \$30 fee are required prior to attending. Contact the church office for more information or for an application form.

MEMORIALS AIDING IN SOUND SYSTEM PURCHASE

In the past several years the church has received numerous memorial gifts from families of those members who have passed away. Donations to the Memorial Fund are used for items that enhance our worship experience.

Because of generous donations, the Memorial Committee has given \$5,000 to help pay for the new sound system in the Sanctuary. Other recent purchases include a new communion cloth with napkins and a beautiful brass cross and candlesticks for the Chapel. These gifts are very much appreciated as they enrich the life of the entire congregation.

SOLID ROCK CAFÉ

Wednesday, February 14

Menu: Beef Roast, Gravy, Rice

Desserts: Lowe, Sanders, Andrew, McCrary, Parker, Dent

Wednesday, February 21

Menu: Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans

Desserts: Harris, Johnson, Erlandson, Coley, Petrocy

Wednesday, February 28

Menu: Smoked Meats

Desserts: Brown, Snider, Combs, Kleinheksel, Aldridge

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family: Bliss Vanderpool, Ann Graham, Sam Tesh, Holly Gambill, Betty Tesh, Rev. Paul McCauley, Zack Trexler, Paulette McCauley, Libbi Parks, Emad Elkhayat, Ray Fencil, Larry Johnson, Walt Pettit, Hal Stuart, Bill Amburn, Ercel Carter, Dan & Sallie Park, Laura Gwyn, Gary Conrad, Bonnie Stuart, nursing home residents & homebound

Extended Care: Mary Cockerham, Iris Amburn, Mary Neil, Linda Maxey

Extended Family: Ruth Deck, John Seats, Diana Hamm, Richard Smoot, Clifford Jordan, Ronnie Ray, Nada Sheets, Emily Stewart, Ethan Spencer, Florence Leverett, Ana Garciana, Steve McLain, Betty Jordan, Linda Caudill, Jeff Miltner, Sharon and Brad Watterson, Pierce & Aishling, Priscilla Smith, Marc Bishop, Lynn & Dale Rose, Buck Freeman, Lorene Newman, Michael Hines, Dennis Staley, Robert Miller, Joan Shuford, Dr. Richard Belcher, Dr. Gladys Campbell, Mary Harper Edsall, Nan Boyd, Gus Bellia, Lonnie Snider, Teresa Shook, Millie Joyce, Martha Key, Kidd Family

All of our military personnel and their families

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Trustees

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:00 pm (Library)

Children's Ministry Team

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2:00 pm (Library)

Endowment Team

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:00 pm (Library)

Missions Team

Monday, Feb. 26, 7:00 pm (Library)

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 Church Staff:
 Rev. Michael A. Shuford, Pastor (mshuford@elkinfumc.org)
 Cindy Furr, Director of Discipleship (cfurr@elkinfumc.org)
 Amy Johnson, Director of Music/Children's Ministries (ajohnson@elkinfumc.org)
 Benjamin Wallace, Parish Life Coordinator (bwallace@elkinfumc.org)
 Beth Darnell, Director of Weekday Programs (bdarnell@elkinfumc.org)
 Pat Trexler, Custodian (ptrexler@elkinfumc.org)
 George Brown, Assistant Custodian (gbrown@elkinfumc.org)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
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