

WPC NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

Today is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a 40 day season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus. We will not have our traditional Ash Wednesday service nor our weekly Lent lunches, but we are providing three ways for you to remember this day and to participate in Lenten practices.

1. Pastor Hans and Tim will be under the blue awning in the east parking lot from 5:00 to 7:00pm. You may drive thru and receive the ashes and a prayer.
2. Daily Lenten Micro practices will be posted on our Facebook page. Each day gives you a small way to practice following Jesus. If you do not have Facebook and would like a print copy of these micro practices please let me know and I will send you a paper copy.
3. Parents of LOGOS children – don't forget to join your children 15 minutes before pick-up time (5:45) tonight. We will have a brief Ash Wednesday lesson with some readings and prayers.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "Now Is the Time"

Dr. Tim Kovalcik

Jazz Sunday

1st Sunday in Lent

FAITH STUDY

You now have two opportunities to join the Faith Study with Pastor Hans. The first opportunity is every Sunday morning at 9:00. You may join by Zoom or you may join Pastor Hans in the Parlor. The Zoom link is in the weekly emailed newsletter.

Your second opportunity is to join Pastor Hans on Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Parlor.

DOORS AROUND THE CHURCH

Just a reminder – the only doors open for entry on Sunday morning are the following:

- Front Main St. door
- Blue awning door with elevator access
- Fellowship Hall ramp door is open for a short period for choir members to enter

And we have made a change to the doors that exit on the east side of the building by the air conditioning units. (The doors close to the choir room) Those doors are for emergency exit only and cannot be opened from the outside. For everyone's safety please use the above-mentioned doors on Sunday mornings.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe, but Ash Wednesday is here, and Lent is starting again. Lent is traditionally the time before Holy Week when we are supposed to reflect on our faith and our life, and this way prepare ourselves for the most holy day on the Christian calendar, Easter Sunday.

So, let's do this. Let us ask ourselves some very basic questions: what do we believe and why? I can tell you what Presbyterians traditionally believe. First, like all Christians we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. We believe that our God is indeed a mighty God. And we believe that the Holy Spirit is present and visible in the decisions we as a group make. That's the foundations. Most Christians believe these or very similar ideas.

Specific to Presbyterianism are two beliefs which are in the same way not held by any other faith: First, there is the belief in the priesthood of all believers. We get this idea from Martin Luther who said that "in our baptism we all are made priests, bishops, and popes." In our baptism we all are equal before God. Hence, no hierarchy, and all offices are accessible to everybody, and filled by the power of the Holy Spirit through votes. Second to this, we stick with the unity of the body of Christ, the church. All Christians, and hence all congregations are connected and unified in the body of Christ. Our churches are not just out there doing willy nilly things, we all try to do the work of Christ together.

Finally, there is a belief which is only kind of connected with faith, but which is foundational not only to our church, but also to our nation, and the whole of the modern world: the freedom of conscience. In the end, our relationship with our God is a most personal affair, just between God and us. The church has an obligation to teach scripture and faith, but what we make out of this teaching is indeed between God and us. We do not believe that human councils can decide ultimate issues. Only God can.

There is a lot more to be said about faith in our place and our time, but this is a good point from which to start. And remember, unless we know what we believe we will not be able to convince anybody of the worthiness of what we believe.

God with all of us in this difficult time.
Pastor Hans

MU FOOD PANTRY

The Mission Committee voted to resume collecting food items for the Millikin Food Pantry. A list of items is below. All food items can be brought to the Church on Sunday mornings and placed in the basket in the Narthex.

BIG BLUE FOOD PANTRY LIST

- Breakfast: Life Cereal, Frosted Flakes, Cheerios, Pop Tarts, Oatmeal

- Snacks: Peanut Butter/Cheese crackers, Jello cups, Pudding cups, Protein bars, Fritos, Cheez-its, Rice Krispie Treats, Wheat thins, Popcorn, Ritz Crackers, Chex Mix, Fruit snacks
- Lunch/Dinner: Tuna, Ravioli, Chicken noodle soup, Tomato Soup, Pasta/pasta sauce, Vegetable Soup, Chili w/beans, Chili w/o beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly – grape, strawberry, Hamburger helper, Can spaghetti, Pork & Beans, Baked beans, Beef Stew, Ramen-chicken, beef
- Canned fruit: peaches, mixed fruit, fruit cocktail, applesauce
- Canned vegetables: Corn, Green Beans
- Condiments: Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Ranch Dressing, French Dressing
- Beverages: Hot chocolate, Keurig coffee, Lemonade

ON THE CALENDAR

- 2/17 LOGOS 4:30pm
- 2/17 Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday 5:00 – 7:00pm
- 2/21 Faith Study 9:00am
- 2/21 Deacon's Meeting 11:00am
- 2/21 Jr High and Sr. High Youth Group 6:30pm
- 2/23 Mission Committee 7:00pm
- 2/24 Faith Study 3:30pm
- 2/24 LOGOS 4:30pm
- 2/25 Session Meeting 6:30pm