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February 2023 Church Calendar

- 2/5 Sunday School, Worship Service
- 2/6 - Knitting Circle
Youth meeting
Governance Board Meeting
ERMA Food Pantry
- 2/12- Sunday School
Worship Service
- 2/13 Knitting Group
Youth Meeting
ERMA Food Pantry
- 2/19 - Sunday School
Worship Service
- 2/20 - Knitting group
Youth Meeting
ERMA Food Pantry
- 2/22 - Ash Wednesday Service (7:30p.m.)
- 2/26 - Sunday School
Worship Service
- 2/27 - Knitting Group
Youth Meeting
ERMA Food Pantry

The Pastor's Corner

This month on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, we will observe Ash Wednesday in a worship service at 7:30p.m. It seems that many may not really know much about the importance of Ash Wednesday or why we observe it during the course of our Christian Calendar year. Therefore it tends to be a seldom attended worship service. Despite the powerful call for us to repent and prepare our hearts for the high holy season of Easter.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinful-

ness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the Western church. United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of Worship. Prior to that time, Methodists either had no official service at all for this day (through 1964) or an "ash-less" Ash Wednesday Service (1965 Book of Worship). Ashes are an "accessory" that demonstrates an awareness of mortality and an intent to repent. The actual awareness and the corporate and personal acts of repentance are the substance of services for the first day of Lent. In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

As the ashes are placed on



Pastor Brian

the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

It is my hope and invitation to you to come and join us for this service, especially if you have never attended an Ash Wednesday Service in the past. Make this your first time.

ERMA Food Pantry Face Lift

The ERMA Food Pantry has operated out of the ground floor of Grottoes United Methodist Church for about 30 years.

The space has been limited for the Food pantry due to other ministries from the church that have shared the space in the past.

As ministry partners, we are

looking to make this space a better, more suitable space for the Food pantry ministry to operate out of.

We will be working to update electrical wiring, lighting, shelving, moving some walls, old kitchen cabinets, and old makeshift shelving, painting, and installing new shelving that can accommodate the weight of the many boxes of food.

The ERMA food pantry has agreed to help pay for the remodel and Grottoes UMC members will be heading the project and coordinating volunteers to complete the project.

If you are interested in being apart of this work team at any point on this project please talk with Danny Lucas or Pastor Brian.

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The United Methodist Mission Statement is:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The Grottoes Vision Statement is:

"Grottoes UMC is a faith community that shares God's gifts of love and hope through:
Uplifting worship, Acts of Compassion,
Spiritual growth & fellowship, Service to others"

Worship livestream

On Facebook - Grottoes United Methodist Church

WesleyOne Internet Radio Ministry

www.wesleyone.faith

GUMC Finance Report

I want to begin with a small celebration. Over the course of the past 8-9 years since my appointment began at GUMC this is the first year that we have made it beyond January and going into February meeting our Weekly Budget goals for the first 6 weeks of the year! I want to encourage you to continue your faithful tithing and generous giving.

February's Weekly offering goals are as follows:

2/5 - \$3,061 (2.51%)

2/12 - \$801 (.66%)

2/19 - \$3,293 (2.70%)

2/26 - \$1,734 (1.42%)

Our Monthly Goal for February to stay on track to meet our 2023 Budget is : **\$8,909.00.**

Tithing is a Spiritual Discipline

that helps us to recognize God's blessings and provisions for us. If you are not currently practicing a full tithe of 10%. I would like to encourage you to strive towards this as a spiritual disciple goal in your faith journey.

Kits for Annual Conference

Our annual collection for health kits for UMCOR/ Kits for Conference has already begun.

We began in January with our first item (Hand Towels).

February 12—March 12, we will be collecting Wash cloths

If you would like to contribute to the collection but are unable to go shopping, you may make a donation for Kits for Conference. Donations can be made online or through the church offering plate.

Mission moment

It is easy to be unaware of the struggles that many around might be facing today. I was reminded of the struggles this week of a man who was trying everything he could to keep his family in a warm place since he lost his job, was evicted from their home, and trying to make sure his daughter who has a service dog is cared for.

Homelessness is an increasing problem because of the housing shortage in the U.S. The cost of housing has skyrocketed. Shelters are over crowded, or unable to take entire families, especially when service dog is part of that family.

We as Christians are called to seek and work for justice. This situation is truly a justice issue within our system, and church resources cannot keep up.

February Birthdays

Dale Spitzer 2/10

Brooklyn Frye 2/10

Justin Nolen 2/16

Tim Leeth 2/20

Savanah Hensley 2/21

Sierra Hensley 2/21

Ramona Leeth 2/24

Karson May 2/27

Feb. Anniversaries

Brian & Kara Posey 2/14