

I had started to write an article about ashes as a lead into “Ashes on the Go” (see article on page 5 of this newsletter). However, I ran across the following article from Ken Collins' website, which I recommend as one resource for good worship related information, and I thought, “Why reinvent the wheel?” The one additional piece that I would add is that ashes often remind me of the humility I need in my Christian faith since I will, after all, be ashes again one day. You might consider how we use ashes in our liturgy (for example, at funeral services) and those places where ashes appear in scripture. How might they be a useful symbol for you in your faith?

Why Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

As you know, Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for forty days to prepare for his ministry. It was for Him a time of contemplation, reflection, and preparation. By observing Lent, most Christians join Jesus on His retreat.

Lent consists of the forty days before Easter. In the western Church, we skip over the Sundays when we count the days of Lent, because Sunday is always the joyful celebration of the Resurrection. Therefore, the first day of Lent in the western Church is always a Wednesday.

Biblical societies relied very heavily on wood fires for heating and cooking, which meant that keeping ashes under control was a major housekeeping task. Then as now, if a person was preoccupied with something serious, they didn't always tend to the housekeeping—it's the least of their concerns. Imagine that there is a death in the family. A friend stopping by to pay their respects might gently say, “Did you know you have ashes on your face?”

So ashes became a sign of remorse, repentance, and mourning. Today someone might wear a black armband to signify that they are in mourning; back then people put ashes on their foreheads.

You can find biblical examples of this in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6, and Jeremiah 6:26. During Lent, ancient Christians mourned their sins and repented of them, so it was appropriate for them to show their sincerity by having ashes on their foreheads. The custom has persisted in the church as secular society has changed around us. It is most appropriate on Ash Wednesday, when we begin a period of sober reflection, self-examination, and spiritual redirection.

Traditionally, the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service come from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Some people only celebrate the happy times in Jesus' life: Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas. But I think as true friends, we should also watch and pray with Him on Maundy Thursday, stand by Him at the cross on Good Friday, and retreat with Him into the wilderness during Lent.

Today the word ‘fasting’ means a total abstention from all food. In the historic Church, it means a boring but balanced diet so that your animal appetites become a sort of spiritual snooze alarm. If you “fast” by abstaining from all food, you can endanger your health.

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Grace and peace,
Rev. Tim



Caribou Clock

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Website: <http://www.bqmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

Well, it's that time of year again - TAX SEASON! I will be volunteering for AARP at the Caribou VFW, preparing tax returns each Tuesday and Thursday from 9am - 3pm. Our first day is Thursday, February 1st, so the office will be closed that day. Starting the next day, Friday, February 2nd, my Church Office hours will be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am - 2pm. These changes will remain in effect until Tuesday, April 17th! I appreciate being able to change the office hours so that I can do this volunteer service!

If any of your information changes (mailing and/or physical address, phone number, email address, etc.) PLEASE contact the church office so we can update our records! I have received a number of returned newsletters in recent months due to an incorrect address! I am also emailing the Newsletter to many people - if you do not get your Newsletter through email, just let me know and I will add you to that list! **In recent months, several previously used email addresses no longer work, so I have had to mail hard copies of this Newsletter. If the address label on this Newsletter is in red - that means you!**

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier
Church Secretary



December 31st & January Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie, Lu & Dale Sharp, Judi McKee, Phil Turner, Don Collins, Reta Haley, Sheila Belyea, Emily Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Ralph Ferguson, Ivan Shaw, Pat Duquette, Margaret Fayle, Dustin Nichols, Rodney Nichols, DeDe Nichols, Romeo Bouchard, Terry Boddy, David DeMerchant, Neal Genz, Jean Bedard, Dawn Rauch, Martha Dunn, Bob Hemingway, Herman & Joanne Wright, Barbara Foster, Ruthann Weeks, Florence Gallagher, Janie Lidey, Mary Roberts, Louis Greenier, Bob Locke, Elizabeth Cochran, Lynn Potter, Dolly Jandreau, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Cathy Firth, Brently Peterson & Family, TJae Peterson & Family, Brittany Peterson Harward & Family, Johnny Peterson, Rob Wright & Family, Debbie Nichols, John Nichols & Family, Bob & Elsie Locke, Jean Bedard

On Family Death: The family of Mary Bear; family of Richard McDowell; family of Dennis Curley; Family of Roberta Walton's brother

Other: Nations of Israel, Palestine, Syria; All who serve in harm's way; safe travel to Germany for Jeff Cyr

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A MAILING ADDRESS FOR PEOPLE OR FAMILIES YOU PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST SO WE CAN SEND THEM A NOTE FROM REV. TIM. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

Correspondence Received: A Thank You note reading -

Dear Rev. Wilcox & Congregation,

Thank you so much for your prayers. I am recovering well after my surgery. I believe in the Power of Prayer. God has certainly brought me through a lot. I trust in Him completely. May the Lord continue to work mighty through you and your church,

In Christian Love - Margaret Fayle

REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Feb 4	Debbie Nichols	Debbie Nichols & DeDe Nichols	Elsie Doody	UMW & Jennie Lyon Circle
Feb 11	Mary Ouellette	Marcia & David DeMerchant	Elsie Doody	Memorials Committee
Feb 18	Bobbi Pelletier	Jeannette Belyea & Audrey Bubar	Elsie Doody	SPRC
Feb 25	Del Ramey	Jeanette & Ken Peters	Ruthann Weeks	Worship Committee

February Usher Coordinator: Ralph Ferguson

February Communion Stewardess: Ruthann Weeks

Organists: Feb 4-Margaret Cyr; Feb 11-Mary Lou Brown;

Feb 14 (Ash Wednesday noon service)-Susan Clark; Feb 18-Margaret Cyr; Feb 25-Judi Greenier

Acolytes: Feb 4-Darrell Adams & Alden Wilcox; Feb 11-Fredrich Wilcox; Feb 18-Alden Wilcox; Feb 25-Lauren Craig

Child Care Volunteers: Feb 4-Samuella Manages; Feb 11-Debbie Barnes; Feb 18-Jennifer Craig; Feb 25-Diane Fitzpatrick

Each individual or committee is responsible to make arrangements for changes to these various calendars.

Please contact the church office if any changes to these lists are made so the weekly bulletins are correct!

* * February Birthdays & Anniversaries * *

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday during Coffee Fellowship.

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering each year.



- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Vince Bell, Deneane Bentum, Miles Collier,
Judi Greenier, Carl Soderberg | 14 | Avon Brown, Sirena Cyr |
| 2 | Joanne Smith | 15 | Whitney Smith |
| 3 | Lisa Chase | 16 | Dale DeMerchant, Jeff Irving |
| 5 | Austin Branscom, Gerry Willard | 18 | Nova Cyr, Barbara Dee, Cassie Westman |
| 8 | Stephen Cashman | 19 | Winnie Bentum, Kelly Wardwell |
| 12 | Robert Locke | 20 | Gary Merritt |
| 13 | Jennifer Barker, Ryan Branscom, Jennifer Craig,
Page Espling, Kathy Snow | 25 | Diane McDonough |



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 12 | Patricia & Darrell Adams | 28 | Patricia & Donald Collins |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|

If your name or the name of someone in the Gray Memorial Family does not appear on this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office, 498-2103.

Corrections are ALWAYS appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.



**STEWARDSHIP/
FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Jan 7	70	\$8,492.00
Jan 14	80	\$3,800.80
Jan 21	85	\$9,535.00
Jan 28	85	\$1,778.00

Needed to meet 2018 Budget: \$3,989.24 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money:

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account and as of January 28th, the balance in the account is \$39,020.72.

Changes to November 2016 Church Directory (February 2018):

Bear, Mary: deceased - January 5, 2018

Irving, Robbie & Meagan: new address – 33 Caribou Lake Road, Caribou; phone # 554-6405

Lenten Study: Embracing Forgiveness

In this study, author and teacher Barbara Cawthorne Crafton shares stories and insights on forgiveness, what it is and isn't, why it's so badly needed, and how employing simple, concrete practices can integrate forgiveness into our lives. Over the course of the study, she shows how forgiveness can remove the tumor of anger from our hearts to become a means of grace that gives us back our humanity. Crafton's thoughtful insight allows participants to weigh the transforming power of forgiveness in their own lives. Led by Neal Genz during the Sunday morning adult class for 5 weeks beginning on Feb. 18, this class will help participants focus on being part of Christ's reconciliation in a world that so often drowns it out. **Please let Neal or the church office know by Feb. 8 if you would like to participate so that we can be sure we order enough study books.**

"Ashes on the Go"

So, you can't attend the Ash Wednesday service at the church, but you would like to receive the ashes or somehow mark the significance of that day. What to do?!? This year, on your way to work or your morning activities, come by the church for "Ashes on the Go." Rev. Tim will be under the canopy of the church on February 14 from 7:15-9:30. He will pray with you for a few moments (you can stay in your vehicle if you wish) and offer the traditional imposition of ashes. As an added bonus, it will be a great conversation starter if you are seeing a valentine later in the day.

Pictures from our Worship Services!!
(photos by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



Bobbi Pelletier (second from left in front) leads the "Characters" through a practice of the dramatic scripture reading prior to Worship Service on Sunday, December 31st.

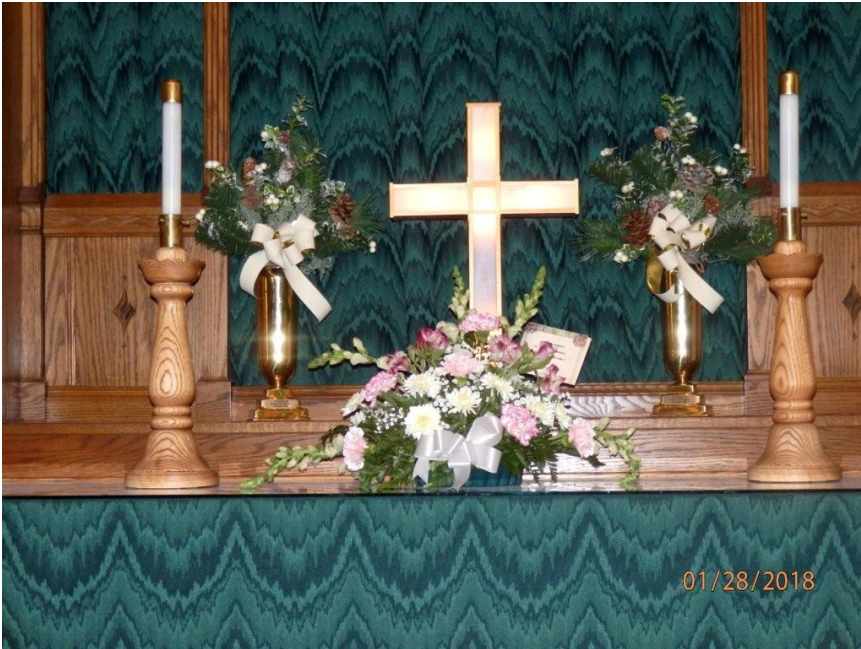
Front: Rev. Tim, Bob Thompson & Shawn Anderson were "Wise Ones"

Back: Adam Langworthy (Joseph); Dawn Westman (Messenger); Steve Cashman, Dave Belyea & Ken Peters (Scribes/Priests)

Sitting: Peter Edgecomb (Herod); Standing on Right: Dave DeMerchant (Narrator)

The Handbell Choir
performed
"O, Sing to the Lord"
on Sunday, January 28th.





Special flowers on January 28th were in memory of Faye Belyea Campbell, provided by Dick & Jeannette Belyea, David & Sheila Belyea, Ron & Paula Belyea and Steve & Joan Belyea

Baby Bottle Drive in support of the Pregnancy Care Center in Presque Isle. Congregation can fill with change/dollar bills/a check (made out to Pregnancy Care Center). All bottles must be returned by Sunday, February 18th.



Other Kodak Moments!



Wendy Bossie created a beautiful Library display "Angels Among Us" for the Advent season that coincided with our overall Advent theme! Thank you Wendy!



The newest Library display "Vaughn and Beryl Lombard's Album to the Methodist Church - pictures predominantly from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s!"

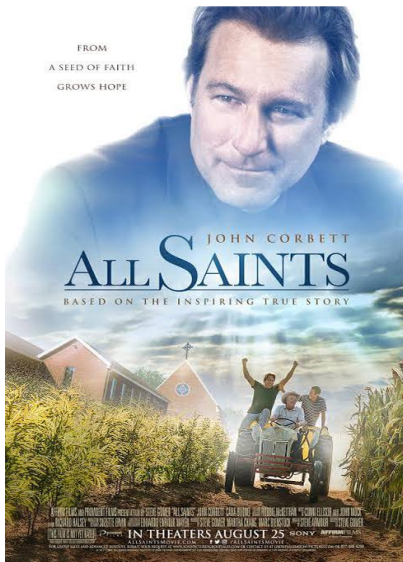


Would you like to receive the Sunday afternoon email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events for the next week? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to Ruth & Emmett at rneross@maine.rr.com or contact the church office.



What is Shrove Tuesday?

Shrove Tuesday (known in some countries as pancake Tuesday) is a day in February preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated by consuming pancakes. The word Shrove is a form of the English word, shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. The UMM will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 13th from 5:00-6:00 PM.



On Thursday, February 8th at 6pm the Education Committee is sponsoring a "Movie Night". The movie is "All Saints" which is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock (John Corbett), the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all."

Cluster Confirmation

Several churches in the Aroostook Cluster of United Methodist Churches are sponsoring a confirmation class this winter and spring. Gray Memorial UMC is one of the participating churches. Students in the 7th - 12th grades may participate. Details are still being worked out, but the estimated time frame is projected to be around 10-12 weeks with different sessions held in participating churches (currently also including Grant Memorial UMC, Presque Isle and Limestone UMC). For more information, if you are interested in the class, or someone in your family might be interested, contact Rev. Tim as soon as possible. An informational session will be held in early February on a date to be announced.



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
1-18-18

Attendees: Diane McDonough, Tamara Wilcox, Claire Hodgkins, Rev. Tim Wilcox, Stephen Cashman, Debbie Barnes and Susan White.

Diane McDonough opened the meeting with a prayer and the Council members voted to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published and printed. The following Committee reports were presented:

CLUSTER: Rev. Tim reported that the Cluster is moving ahead with plans for a joint confirmation class among Limestone, Grant Memorial, and Gray Memorial. They hope others will also participate. No exact date has been announced but it is planned to occur between March and May, 2018. Gray Memorial will host the Cluster Lenten service on one Sunday in March to be announced as soon as the District service is known. A couple of names from our church have been suggested at our Council meeting as nominees for the Social Action Award to be given in November.

EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES:

1. Christmas tree sales profit approximately \$2,000. More help will be needed next year for this to continue.
2. We will host a Movie Night on Thursday, Feb 8 at 6pm; "All Saints" is planned to be shown.
3. Only about 4-6 children are attending Sunday school. More families are needed in our church. Discuss the possibility of a Saturday evening service totally different than the conventional service. Michele and Friedrich plan to attend the Wesleyan Church service to see if we can adopt any of their activities - they usually have 200-300 attend.
4. Adult Education on Sunday mornings has changed from Rev. Tim facilitating to a group of volunteers lead by Richard Clark. They have scheduled the rest of this winter and spring to see how it will be accepted. Richard's class has had some good comments already.
5. Youth activities for 2018/2019 are being looked into.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: Tamara Wilcox reported on the December Tithes & Offerings as follows:

Regular Offerings	\$20,716.90
Other sources of Operating Fund	Christmas 75.00
Total Operating Fund	20,791.90
Reimbursements (Upper Room) & (Education-Discovery)	17.00
Special Funds for Church Use	8,966.86
Special Funds not for Church Use	435.00
Total Tithes & Offerings for December	30,210.76

Christmas tree sales grossed \$6,269.00 before expenses. The Angel Tree money amounted to \$1,825.00 and the Tree of Lights brought in \$275.00.

Debbie Barnes reported the following Checkbook figures for December:

Beginning Balance	\$1,097.01
2017 Operating Income	20,791.90
Interest	1.19
Less EFT fee	(19.20)
Less Expenses	19,146.41)
Ending Balance	2,724.49

*\$25,000.00 gift to Memorial Garden was invested June 29, 2017 and a fee of \$1,073.78 was deducted. As of December 29, 2017 the on-line report shows an ending balance of \$24,790.44.

The beginning balance for the Capital Account Seed Money was \$38,256.06. Deposits amounted to \$407.66. There were no expenditures. Closing balance was \$38,663.72.

Debbie reported that all bills were paid at the end of December. The Dead River balance for the church was \$1,763.10 and for the Parsonage it was \$804.44. Mission shares cost \$2,327.17/month.

The December numbers for the Annual Budget are as follows: The Target was \$199,820.00. Tithes & Offerings were \$175,582.15. Total expenses came to \$190,795.26. Debbie reported that the average attendance for December was 93, but the average attendance for the year-to-date was 88. The Committee is discussing the Italian Dinner planned for April 7th, but no news at this time. The Council voted to accept the 2016 Fund Balance Report. Also accepted was the 2018 Budget Proposal of \$207,440.50 which will require \$3,989.24 weekly to meet or \$17,286.71 monthly.

MEMORIALS: Diane McDonough reported that the Savings Account was closed and the money was deposited into the Checking Account. Also she had made changes to the bank cards to reflect the change in those responsible for the account.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: We have not met since last Church Council meeting, so just providing information on committee's recent activities: We were very pleased with the tremendous support for the "Angel Tree" project! All families received a \$75 food card along with fruit & candy, plus gifts for each child. We had a number of special "Angels" who volunteered to deliver all the gifts. Committee agreed to sponsor Rev. Tim's Advent radio spots – we did hear from a few people that they really enjoyed the message. At our next meeting, we hope to discuss committee's plans for the future.

SPRC: SPRC met on Thursday, January 11th. At this meeting the committee discussed goals and work to be done in 2018. The committee will continue to update the Church Profile to submit to the District Superintendent, continue to support staff members and evaluate how substitutes for various positions are compensated. The committee will also look into purchasing the set of CD's that go with our hymnals. These would be used as a backup should we have a Sunday when an organist/pianist is unavailable for a Sunday worship service. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 6th.

TRUSTEES: No Report.

WORSHIP: The committee met on Saturday, January 6th to remove all the Advent decorations from the Sanctuary. We had a short meeting afterwards in the kitchen. The following topics were discussed: Marcia McFee Worship Design Studio membership due to expire on January 11th. After some discussion, we decided to renew the membership for another year. Discussion about what to purchase for Lent – decided to purchase 75 copies of "Finding Peace in Lent", 1 for each household. Ash Wednesday – we decided to have just one service, at noon. Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil in the Chapel will be from 6am – 6pm with a ½ hour break for the service. Diane Fitzpatrick will make the sign-up poster and have it ready for January 14th. Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, February 11th – Mardi Gras themed service in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be sweet breads, fruit and chocolate. Pat Dobson will bring a "King Cake". We will discuss set-up for the hall during our next meeting on February 1st. Decided to have a Good Friday Service this year, at 7pm. We also discussed putting together a congregation survey to obtain information on likes/dislikes and new things we might try. We will have more discussion regarding that at future meetings. Rev. Tim outlined his upcoming Sermon Series: "Things Overheard", which begins in January until Lent; Lent – "Why We Do What We Do?" Rev. Tim said that at the latest Cluster Meeting there was discussion about Gray Memorial having a Cluster Lenten Service – we chose March 11 (due to time change) as our first date; March 4th would be second option.

UMM: No Report.

UMW: No Report.

PASTOR'S TIME: Due to weather and other conflicts the Fruitful Congregation group has been unable to meet but intend to meet soon. However, we want to have a multi-church and community wide gathering to discuss what the vision should look like going forward. One important question would be, "What is God calling us to do?" Also, another piece of this would be, "What is the best use of our resources?"

OTHER: Due to the Fellowship Hall floor project in progress, there will be no Coffee Fellowship Sunday, January 21. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be Feb.22nd.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hodgkins, Secretary

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2018!!!!

Thursday	01	6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting at Church
Saturday	03	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

Sunday	04	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
		1:00pm	Fruitful Congregation Journey Meeting at Grant Memorial UMC
Monday	05	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	06	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	07	1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	08	6:00pm	Education Committee Sponsoring a Movie Night: "All Saints"
Saturday	10	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

Sunday	11	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Last Sunday After the Epiphany; Transfiguration Sunday; Scouting Sunday; ("Mardi Gras" Worship Service in Fellowship Hall)
		11:30pm	Education Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	12	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	13	5:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Sponsored by UMM
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Gray Memorial; (Note location change)
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	14	6am-noon	Ash Wednesday Vigil in Chapel
		7:15am-9:30am	"Ashes on the Go" - Rev. Tim will stand under the entrance canopy to offer ashes to anyone who wishes to receive them!
		9:30am	UMW Meeting at Church
		12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Noon Service
		12:30pm-6pm	Ash Wednesday Vigil in Chapel
		1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Crown of Maine Quilters at Mapleton UMC
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Saturday	17	8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2018 (continued)!!!!

Sunday	18	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study (first Sunday for "Embracing Forgiveness" led by Neal Genz; 5-week study)
		10:00am	Worship - First Sunday in Lent
		11:30am	Missions & Evangelism Committee Meeting in Library
Monday	19	<u>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u>	
Tuesday	20	1:00pm	Caregivers Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting in Church
Wednesday	21	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>	
		1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	22	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting in Kitchen
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting in Kitchen
Saturday	24	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting
		8:30-9:30am	Moms in Prayer Group

Sunday	25	8:45am	Sunday School and Adult Study
		10:00am	Worship - Second Sunday in Lent
Monday	26	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	27	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Michele
Wednesday	28	1:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		4:30pm	Barbershop Group Practice
		6:00pm	Handbell Choir Practice
		6:15pm	Disciple IV Bible Study
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice

Please note that beginning Thursday, February 1st, the church office hours are changing.

The office will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 17th.

The office hours will be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am - 2pm.

Regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-noon) will resume on Wednesday, April 18th.