

First Light

A weekly e-newsletter from
First United Methodist

February 28, 2025

Preparing For Our Lenten Sermon Series: “Purveyors of Awe”

“Awe is a profound emotional response that can significantly impact our well-being and perception of the world. Awe often arises from experiences that transcend our usual understanding, such as viewing vast landscapes, listening to powerful music, encountering extraordinary acts of kindness, or feeling heightened devotion and a divine presence connecting us all. To be a “Purveyor of Awe” is to be intentional about curating a life of spiritual depth. This has implications not only for one’s own life, but also as motivation to tend to the well-being of others. Let us approach this Lent with Awe.” - Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio

During Lent this year, we will delve into the world of “awe”; specifically, the ideas of beauty, wonder, meaning, curiosity, delight, connection, and self-giving. The Worship Committee would like to invite you to help with each week’s worship service by submitting photographs that pertain to that week’s theme. These photos will be used in the worship services to help us explore that week’s theme.

We will kick off the sermon series on Ash Wednesday with the theme of “Beauty”. No pictures are needed for that service. Then the first Sunday of Lent is March 9th and the theme is “Wonder.” Wonder is defined as “a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable.”

Wonder opens our senses to experience the extraordinary in the ordinary and shows us that there is more than meets the eye, that there are solutions in the midst of problems and possibilities where we sense only dead ends. Please submit one photo per person, exhibiting “Wonder” by March 6th. You can send photos to office@firstumcmuncy.org. If you aren’t “tech savvy,” feel free to submit hard copies of photos to the church office.



Easter Flower Orders Due March 23rd

It’s time to order the Easter flowers that will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. We will have one combined service that day (in addition to Sunrise) so we will not have flowers in the Living Water Café. Flowers can be ordered in memory of or in honor of a loved one or can be dedicated to the “glory of God.” Flowers are \$7.00 for each 6-6.5 inch pot of lilies, tulips, hyacinths, mums or mini daffodils. Order forms can be found in your bulletins this Sunday or on the Connection Tables. Place your completed order forms and payment in the offering plates or turn in to the church office. Checks should be made payable to “First United Methodist Church.” Orders are due by March 23rd.



Reminders:

Church-wide Lenten Study

The Lenten studies are beginning soon. Books and sign-ups are on the Connection Tables. You can pay your teacher for the study books at the first session.

The only change to the class schedule is that Pastor Rick will teach the Wednesday evening class in the Living Water Café beginning March 12th.

“EMBRACING THE LIGHT”

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday
“Embracing the Light”

Exodus 34:29-35
Luke 9:28-43a

**Ash
Wednesday
Service**
March 5th
7:00 pm
Sanctuary



Let's Celebrate!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 Linda Miller, Tyler Morse, Elly Sherman,
William Eisenhauer
- 3/3 Carrine Phillips, Rory Oden
- 3/4 Madeline Maxwell
- 3/5 Sally Zehner, Penny Merrill
- 3/6 Mason Zeisloft
- 3/7 Toni Leitenberger
- 3/8 Makenna Koser
- 3/9 Dorothy Young
- 3/11 Tim Benner
- 3/13 Sandy Richards
- 3/14 Jeremy Eckard, Lauren Wilcox
Preston Chronister
- 3/15 Brenda Neidig, Garman Zehner
- 3/17 Linda Shultz
- 3/19 Samuel Eck, Owen Kilpatrick,
Kaitlyn Myers
- 3/20 Cailyn Kilpatrick, Carol LeVan,
Donna Gavitt
- 3/23 Lana Baker
- 3/24 Dani Eck, Juanita Cuddeback
- 3/25 Nicholas Laubscher, Allison Eisenhauer
- 3/27 Wayne Dougherty, Mavryk Hackenberg,
Sharon Moyer, Nancy Weigle
- 3/28 Dawn Evans, Valerie Gordner
- 3/30 Dick Lyons
- 3/31 Cassie Rarick

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/1 Paige Kepner and Chris Glidewell
- 3/3 Kelsey and Madison Foreman
- 3/8 Diane and John Shoop
- 3/9 Rev. Dr. Don and Kathy Hurley
- 3/16 Gail and Dave Pentz
- 3/18 Gail and Michael Wood

Strengthen Your Body and Soul



The ice is gone, the temps are above freezing — it's time to get out and get moving!

Need some motivation? Exercise with a great group of women!

The Body and Soul exercise group meets every Monday and Thursday, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Celebration Center. Sessions start with a short devotional, sharing joys and concerns, and prayer. Group led exercises include stretching, muscle toning with bands and weights, light aerobics, followed by walking around the perimeter of the gym. Participants can bring stretch bands and weights of their own, or use bands and weights provided (1, 2 or 3 lb. sizes).

Women in the group range from age 60 to 80+ and everyone exercises at their own comfort level. Class size varies from 6 to 12 women. It's a great way to improve strength, flexibility and balance - and have a few laughs (the best medicine!). For more information, contact Linda Holsinger, 570-546-6840.