

The Grapevine

On the first Sunday of Lent, I shared with you that the Lenten season is an opportunity for us to experience a holy disruption in our lives. In other words, Lent is a time for us to examine our lives and allow God to transform our hearts and minds into the likeness of Christ. Over the course of many years, people of faith have embraced the spiritual disciplines as a way to experience a holy disruption. In our context and cultural setting, it seems that the spiritual discipline of fasting is the most popular.

However, fasting should not be understood as simply giving something up. The discipline of fasting should be understood as giving something up to make room for God's work in our lives and the world. In short, we should not understand fasting, and Lent for that matter, as a season that leads us from a chocolate to a non-chocolate existence. If we were to give up chocolate for Lent, we must also ask ourselves how giving up chocolate brings transformation to our lives and our world. And this question is true for anything we fast from during this season.

A few years ago, I saw a post on social media quoting Pope Francis. The quote speaks of the spiritual discipline of fasting during the Lenten season. I offer this for you with the hope that you may experience some holy disruption in your life this Lent.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- ~Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ~Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ~Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ~Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ~Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ~Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ~Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ~Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ~Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ~Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ~Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

May your Lent be transformative!
Pastor Mike

Maunday Thursdy Service
3/28 at 7 pm

Good Friday Service
3/29 at 7 pm

Easter Service
3/31 at 10:45 am



F.U.M.C NEWS

& Announcements



Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 11th, our church family came together for a "souper" delicious luncheon, voting for our favorite team (or the commercials), and also Team Trivia with rounds of questions about the Super Bowl, Disney character colors and True/False on weird Trivia. Many thanks to those that helped setup, made delicious soup (there were 11!), made desserts, cornbread, plus brought crackers, bread and helped cleanup ... wow!

From start to finish we had a wonderful time and the true winners are The Mustard Seed and the Nutterfort Backpack Program! Collected were 266 items + \$180 in \$\$\$.

SCAN
HERE!



Paper forms available
upon request

First United Methodist Church Directory Update

Please help us update our church directory. For new attendees AND for those who have been with us for years, we ask that everyone fill out a contact form.

HOW TO: Using your mobile phone camera scan the QR code to the left of this text. A link to the form will appear in your mobile search browser. A separate form will need to be filled out for each adult member of your family. *One* family member will be responsible for adding your children's information if applicable.

If you need help, please ask
Leah or Pastor Michael

Lenten Small Group Study

Starting Feb. 21st

Wednesdays at

10 AM with Pastor Michael

&

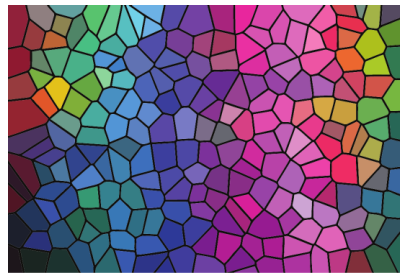
6 PM with Deacon Anna

In the Parlor,
Ending on March 27th

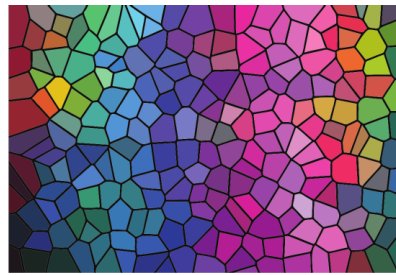
It is not too late to join!
Call the church at 304-623-3397
or just show up!

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

—John 16:33



What is happening at our**CHURCH**..... this month



MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

Monastic Meal

A simple weekly meal, eaten in silence as inspirational literature is read aloud. Join us at 12:15 p.m. each Tuesday in the parlor. Meal donation is \$4.00. To learn more, contact Don Gardner.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Thursday from 5 to 6, a group gathers in the groom's room to knit or crochet shawls for those who may need the loving embrace of the church. Contact Nancy Ferber or Cheryl Moorhead for information.

Feed My Sheep

3rd Mondays of each month (March 18) at 12:00 (noon)

This ministry welcomes to the table those who might be overlooked or rejected.

Food donations are appreciated!

Contact Anita Burns for more details.

First United Methodist Church Women's Luncheon

3rd Thursday of each month
12:00 (noon) in the parlor.

Please contact Shirley Murphy for more information 513-600-8469

MEETINGS

SPRC will meet March 21 at 6 p.m.

Trustees will meet March 12 at 6 p.m.

Finance will meet March 19 at 5 p.m.

Outreach will meet March 19 at 5 p.m.

Council will meet March 19 at 6 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming meeting or event that you would like to have featured in next month's newsletters please email Leah at CFUMC@citynet.net or call the church office.

Youth Events

Youth will join Family Fun events on the Second Sunday of each month

March 10— Family Fun Night

March 17— Spring Service activity, 6 p.m.

We will be starting an 8-week youth book study in April. Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to sign up with Madison Stout or Leah Wray to ensure we have enough books for everyone. Reach out to Madison Stout if you have any questions.

*Volunteers needed for the Youth book study and the May Lock-In

In December, January and February, FUMC collected enough items to fill **150** food bags **per month**. These bags were delivered to Nutterfort Elementary and distributed to children who are affected by food scarcity.

Our next donation due date and bag assembly will take place on March 10th after worship.



To find out what is needed or how you can help-- Contact Leah Wray

Second Sunday

FAMILY FUN DAY

When: March 10th, 5-7 PM
Where: FUMC Fellowship Hall
Food & Fun for All
Nacho/Taco Bar

"Signs, Sounds & Symbols"



connect with us



WWW.CFUMC.ORG



cfumc@citynet.net



Like us on Facebook:
First United Methodist
Church — Clarksburg



scan the QR Code with
your mobile phone for easy
access to our Facebook
and YouTube accounts



YouTube: First United
Methodist Church —
Clarksburg



☘ March Birthdays ☘

Richadeen Gardner	3/01	Emily Broughton	3/11	Michele Kroll	3/21
Murma White	3/01	Cindy Lucas	3/11	Sarah Winters	3/21
Jeff Atkinson	3/02	Maggie Waldeck	3/12	Patty Alker	3/22
Brian Floyd	3/02	Kassandra Fornash	3/13	Thomas Rogers	3/22
Logan Murphy	3/02	Kurt Morrison	3/13	Jeff Spellman	3/24
Chad Matheny	3/04	Ashley Childers	3/16	Leah Alker	3/25
Babb Tolley	3/06	Isabelle Finly	3/16	Carson Wray	3/25
Jacob Grega	3/08	Jenna Maxwell	3/16	Phil Ferber	3/28
Vanessa Squires	3/09	George Finly	3/17	Michael Atkinson	3/31
Andrea Pritchard	3/10	Connor Murphy	3/17	Logan Faris	3/31
Erinn Baratt	3/11	Brayden Thomason	3/17	Ashton Thomason	3/31

Just Exactly What Goes on Here? By: Shelley Spellman

I was contemplating what is happening here at FUMC, so I began making a list and was astounded at the activity that is present on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. As a member of the congregation, I sometimes forget the impact that our church is having on our community. Did you know that all of these activities are occurring, right here, right now in our facility?

- Winter Shelter serving both dinner and breakfast daily
 - Grab-and-Go meals to beginning on March 2nd
- Feed My Sheep, serving a hot meal the 3rd Monday of every month
 - AA/NA meetings multiple times weekly
- Friends Feeding Friends, every Wednesday evening outside FUMC on 2nd Street
- Resilience Collaborative, housed on the 3rd floor offering medical, housing, and other assistance. They meet with clients in the fellowship hall twice a week, as well as transport clients to medical appointments. They offer assistance in a variety of other ways, as well.
- Open Heart Ministries, housed on the 3rd floor offering utility and rental assistance, as well as providing for various other requests, as they are able.
- WVWC Center for Restorative Justice, serves a hot meal each Friday, as well as facilitating a Healing Circle
 - Shower Ministry twice weekly providing showers for those experiencing homelessness.
- Food Backpack Program, serving 150 weekend meals for students at Nutterfort Elementary School
 - Drug Court Graduation annually
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - Monastic Meal, every Tuesday
 - Bible/Book studies that meet 4-6 weeks, three to four times a year
 - Mustard Seed Collection
 - Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for families in need
 - Angel Tree at Christmas
 - Various projects undertaken by the Outreach Committee
 - Children’s Church every Sunday during the worship service
 - 2nd Sunday Family Funday
 - Youth meetings and outings
 - Fighting Hunger with The Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch

All of this is happening in addition to our worship service. I am positive that I have missed some mission, ministry, or activity, but WOW! One of my favorite books of the Bible is James. More specifically James 2:14-24, “Faith without works is dead”. I came across this section of James on a “open the bible and see what speaks to me” day, and it has resonated with me since. So, just in case you were wondering, “Just what goes on here at FUMC?”

Church Office Hours
Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 9-1, Thursday 9-1

“OUR ACTIONS ARE TO SHOW WHO WE ARE AND TO WHOM WE BELONG... SO LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS”

-From Anna Troy's message on 1/28/24



Community Rewards



Scan the QR Code or go to www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards for step by step instructions. If you need assistance setting this up contact Leah Wray during office hours.



Children’s Church every Sunday
after children’s moments during the 10:45 worship service

Infant Care Available



Newsletter Deadline for March is March 26th - Please see Leah Wray

To the First UMC (Clarksburg) family -

First, I wanted to take an opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for your warm send-off on February 11 during worship, as well as the incredibly generous gift you gave me. I hardly feel deserving of it, but am grateful nevertheless.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, I want to make sure that each of you knows how much I have appreciated the opportunity to work, worship, and make music with you these past seven and a half years. My tenure here has been filled with great challenges (remember COVID?) but also with greater learning and growth. Through it all, I've been blessed to rely on the constant support of the congregation, the church leadership, and my staff colleagues; without this support the music ministry of First Church would simply not be possible. I deeply respect the necessary and spiritual work you have set yourself to doing to address the many unmet needs in the local community. I also continue to admire your strong commitment to high quality music in worship, which predates me and which I am certain will continue well into the future. I'm confident in saying that whoever you select to lead music ministry at First Church will be blessed beyond measure by your gifts, graces, and support.

And so thank you, all, for everything you've done and will continue to do to make First UMC (Clarksburg) a shining beacon of warmth, hospitality, service, and love. While I am sad to be leaving, I carry with me a profound appreciation for all the many blessings you've given me these past years.

Sing on, friends!

Brett Miller

Sunday "Service"

Thanks so much to the following folks who have signed-up to help with our Sunday worship!
In addition to our bell ringers and choir members, these people make our Sunday mornings possible.



If you would like to serve, especially as a greeter or an usher, or want more details, just contact Don Gardner at 304-669-3417. Thanks, and God bless!

Jack Brandimarte Sue Brandimarte Judy Burns Chloe Ann Chipps Curt Diaz
Amy Gardner Teresa Gover Diana Higginbotham Carl Lantz Tami Lawrence
Dottie Lowe Mischa Matheny Tammy Matheny Frank McKinney
Roxane Panarella Renae Payne Dee Preston Eve Samples Meredith Seibert
Mary Seti Sherri Shank Shelley Spellman Jane Lynn Squires Rick Squires
Alex Stout Jacki Welsh Jaden Welsh Susan Wilmerink
Carson Wray Leah Wray Mat Wray

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Each year, flowers given in memory or in honor of loved ones, help to decorate our Easter Sunday altar.

All flowers --- including lilies, tulips, hyacinths, or azaleas --- are welcome.
We do prefer green foil.
Please call the church office, 623-3397, by Wednesday, March 27th with information for the bulletin

Flowers for the Easter Sunday service, should be dropped off to the church during Holy Week office hours.
March 26-28th, 9-1

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First UMC will cover half of the registration fee for any of our youth & children who are interested in attending Spring Heights Church Camps.

Registration is open now!

Call the church office for more information or visit www.springheights.org

Feed My Sheep

Takes place on the 3rd Monday of every month.
This is a free meal that offers fellowship and connection between the church and community.



We Need Your Help! Food Items Needed
If you are able to donate please let us know. You can sign up for item(s) by scanning the QR Code with your phone camera. Click the link that pops up and fill out the questions on the form. If you are not able to do so, Please contact Anita Burns 304-203-1279

- Kidney or Red Beans (6)
- Carrots
- Medium Onions (6)
- Peanut Butter
- Bell Peppers, Green (6)
- Karo Syrup
- Celery
- Marshmallow Fluff
- Chicken Broth (3)
- Vanilla Ice Cream
- Smoked Sausage (3)
- Hershey Syrup
- Cabbage (2)