



Morris First United Methodist Church

Upcoming Events:

March 1st – Conf. Class 3:30-5:30 pm

March 1st – Ash Wed. Service 5:30 pm

March 4th – Conf. Retreat 9 am-12 pm

March 5th – Youth 5-7:30 pm at Morris FUMC

March 6th – Lenten Dev. Study 7 am

March 7th – SASSY'S 12 pm

March 8th – Conf. Class 3:30-5:30 pm

March 8th – Board Meeting 7 pm

March 12th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

March 13th – Lenten Dev. Study 7 am

March 15th – Conf. Class 3:30-5:30 pm

March 15th – UMW 7 pm

March 16th – Christ's Cupboard Open 3-6:30 pm

March 17th – Youth Spring Break Fun Day

March 18th – UMM 8 am

March 19th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

March 20th – Lenten Dev. Study 7 am

March 22nd – Conf. Class 3:30-5:30 pm

March 26th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

March 27th – Lenten Dev. Study 7 am

March 29th – Conf. Class 3:30-5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1st at
5:30 pm

Service will last 30-40
minutes.

ASH
WEDNESDAY





From the Pastor's Desk

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. *(From the United Methodist Church website)*

Lent is also said to be based on the Old Testament event called Passover. The children of Israel were living as slaves in Egypt. Their neighbors, the Egyptians, had experienced nine terrible plagues, and the tenth plague was just about to begin. It was going to be the worst yet. God warned Moses to give instructions to the Israelites to clean house (literally), to get all the leaven (yeast) out. Bread was to be made without yeast. A lamb was to be sacrificed, roasted, and eaten – all in one night. If there was more meat than the family could eat, then they were commanded to bring in their hungry neighbors to share. And, more importantly, the Israelites needed to distinguish their home by marking their door, top and sides, with the blood of the lamb. The giving up of yeast (a symbol of sin), and the marking of the blood (publicly declaring their allegiance) is the forerunner of Lent.

So, consider what leaven you wish to clean out of your life, and declare your allegiance to the Lamb of God. As Americans, we are living in the land of excess. Consider your hungry neighbors, and make Lent a time that you take some of your God-provided excess to provide for others. *(From the Society of St. Andrew's a mission partner of the United Methodist Men.)*

There are many Lenten practices that have been passed down through the ages. The point of any Lenten practice is its assistance to the participant in experiencing a life altering transformation for Christ. I will be having a Lent devotional study beginning Monday, March 6th at 7:00 in the morning and continuing each Monday through Lent. This will be a time when we can get together, pray, and begin our week in the service of Christ.

If you would like Lenten devotional materials either to use on your own or for the Monday devotional study, please contact me.

I pray that this season brings you a better understanding of being a disciple and closer to our Savior. God bless you.

Pastor Tracy



The Lenten Devotional Study begins Monday, March 6th at 7 am. It will be every Monday morning for 6 weeks. Each session will last about 30 minutes.

VBS 2017

It's time to start preparing for this summer's VBS: Hero Central- Discover Your Strength in God! A sign up sheet will be going around soon and there will be a job for everyone! Start thinking about how you can participate- be the leader for crafts, science, bible stories, music, provide materials for crafts, donate food for dinners or snacks, help sew hero capes, and much, much more!

Confirmation Retreat



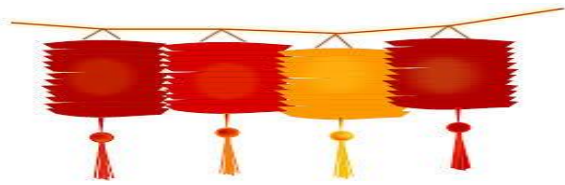
There will be a Confirmation Retreat at the church on Saturday, March 4th from 9 am-12 pm.

Christ's Cupboard



The food pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, cereal, dry beans, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, pancake mix, syrup, rice, macaroni & cheese, dry pasta, canned meat, cornbread, diced tomatoes, and canned fruit.

Chinese New Year Dinner



Our 3rd annual Chinese New Year Dinner will be after church on March 12th. Please bring any type of Chinese dish (examples – stir fries, pot stickers, egg rolls, noodles), the rice and fortune cookies will be provided! Donations will be taken for “Visiting Orphans”, the local group that visits China each summer will use the donations to purchase a needed item for the orphanage. Contact Eva Edmonds or Tracy Sullins for more information.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

We would like to thank everyone who helped with and donated to the youth at our last quarterly lunch in February. We raised over \$450 for the youth mission trip! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15th at 7pm so please come and join us.



March 5th – Youth 5-7:30 at Morris UMC. If you live in Morris you can go straight to the church. If you live in Okmulgee, meet at Okmulgee FUMC and we will take the church van to Morris. We will be holding youth in Morris once a month. It will be held **every 1st Sunday** of the month, unless other plans have been made.

March 12th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

March 17th – Spring Break Fun Day. We are planning a day of fun for the group.

March 19th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

March 26th – Youth 5-7:30 pm

Prayer Requests



Don Sellers	Pastor Joy	Debbie Haynes	Jennifer Roper	Crystal Nolan
Jim Ledford	Bill Patterson	Ronda Stephenson	Delana Devin	Heather Longan
Shawn Metlock	Mike Vaughn	Penny's brother	Matthew Zink	Elizabeth Zink
Alva Rigney	Cody Barnes	Larry Simpson	Sharon Bergevin	Shawn Allen
Doug Dibble	Keith Furer	Christ's Cupboard		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Conf. Class 1 3:30-5:30pm	2	3	4 Confirmation Retreat 9am-12pm
5 Youth 5-7:30 pm at Morris FUMC	6 Lenten Dev. Study 7am	7 SASSY'S 12pm	8 Conf. Class 3:30- 5:30pm Board Mtg. 7pm	9	10	11
12 Youth 5-7:30 pm	13 Lenten Dev. Study 7am	14	15 Conf. Class 3:30-5:30pm UMW 7pm	16 Christ's Cupboard Open 3-6:30pm Trenton Osborn	17 Youth Spring Break Fun Day	18 UMM 8 am
19 Youth 5-7:30 pm	20 Lenten Dev. Study 7am	21	22 Conf. Class 3:30-5:30pm	23	24 Imogene Lenox	25
26 Youth 5-7:30 pm Megan Zink	27 Lenten Dev. Study 7am Shan Edmonds	28 Harvey & Clara Grundman Ann. John Edmonds	29 Conf. Class 3:30-5:30pm	30 Tim Stewart	31	