

Glendive & Wibaux United Methodist Church Newsletter February 2023



Happy
Valentine's
Day

“In February, we move from Valentine’s Day on February 14th (commercial holiday) focused on romantic love to the season of Lent, focused on returning to the embrace of God’s love through repentance and sacrifice. I realize that many of you come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds or perhaps, no faith background at all before coming to Christ as a seeker. For those in more evangelical traditions, Lent can often be perceived as a hollow ritual calling Christians to repentance (when we should be seeking Christ all year long). I get that, and it is a valid criticism for some traditions associated with Lent.

However, each Christian needs time to refocus their faith on Christ and get a heart check. The season of Lent invites us to intentionally improve our relationship with God and neighbor by practicing spiritual disciplines that strengthen our resolve to “seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). Make no mistake, Lent is not simply giving up something like chocolate or Facebook. Lent is removing the most worldly and gluttonous aspects of our lives that we might fill our lives with the things of God (prayer, fasting, works of piety, works of mercy, and sacrificial giving). The forty days of Lent remind us of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his public ministry.” Pastor David Averill



While Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, Lent is commonly regarded as a period of sober observance. The Lenten season is a preparation for commemorating the death and [resurrection](#) of Jesus at Easter.

From its start date on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a customary time for fasting, giving something up, or abstinence. Just as we thoughtfully prepare for events in our individual lives, such as weddings or birthdays, participating in Lent invites us to prepare our minds and hearts for glorifying Jesus’ life, death, and bodily resurrection.

Ash Wednesday starts Lent with a day of remembering our humanity, the reality of death, and the need for repentance. Churches symbolize this by putting ashes on foreheads, often in the shape of a cross.

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it’s a time for personal reflection that prepares people’s hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.



What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The ashes symbolize our grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died, when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs, or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving, or charity.

Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common practice during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

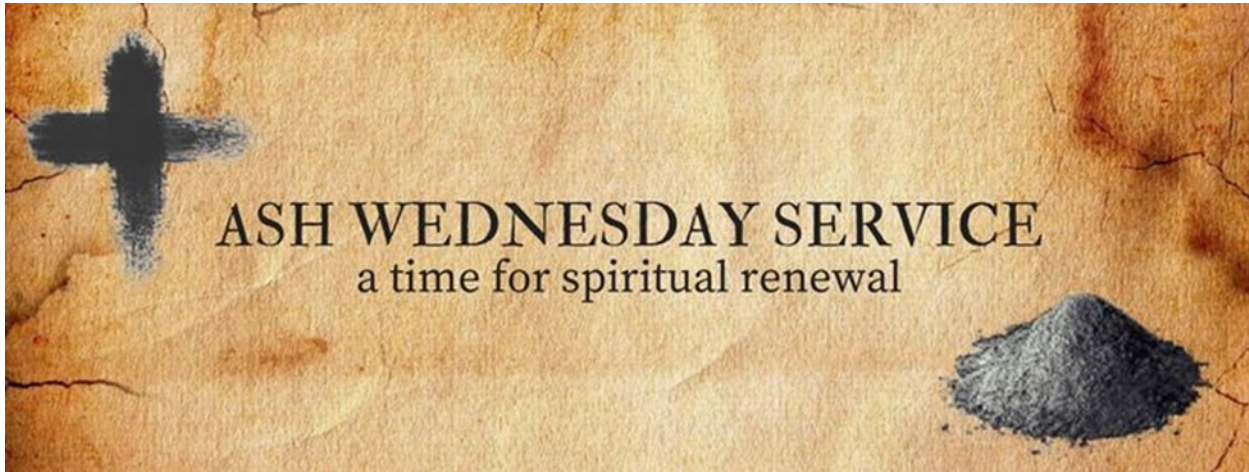
Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, some people spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee.

It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves.

Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment for all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

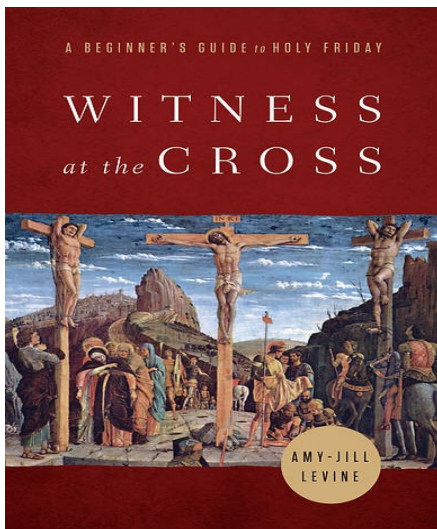




We will once again be having joint Lenten services with our friends at the Zion Lutheran and Congregational churches and, yes, we will be having soup preceding the services! Zion will be hosting the services this year

The first soup and service will be on Ash Wednesday, February 22 with soup served at 6:00 pm and the service to follow at approximately 6:45 pm. These gatherings of soup and service will continue for six weeks through Wednesday, March 29.

Our church has been asked to provide the soup, rolls, and cookies/bars for one of the 6 nights. (Not sure which Wednesday at the time of writing this article.) If you can help with the soup and serving and/or make cookies/bars, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room or talk to Millie Robinson.



**Witness at the Cross (A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday)
by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine**

A six week zoom meeting study class will begin Monday February 27th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for 6 weeks (ending April 3rd). Pastor Samuel Beaves-Fisher, MDiv from Billings will be hosting. If you are interested in this study please let the office know as soon as possible so that books can be ordered. Paperback is \$13.49 and eBook is \$11.99

Pastor Beaves-Fisher will be conducting our services on the following Sundays: February 12, March 19, April 23, May 21, and June 11. He is available after worship and the Saturdays before in the afternoons and evenings for counselling and fellowshiping. He is looking forward to meeting with us and getting to know us. He can be reached at 308-530-4971 or email pastorsam@graceumcbillings.org



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

Will meet on Thursday, February 16 for a noon

fellowship. Bring a lunch if you wish; we will have coffee and tea and just enjoy time together.

Rhubarb Upside Down Cake

4 Cups cut up rhubarb

2 Cups sugar (divided)

1 Teaspoon cinnamon

1 Cup flour

2 Tablespoons soft shortening

1 Teaspoon baking powder

1/4 Teaspoon salt

2 Eggs (beaten)



Spread the rhubarb in greased 9" x 9" baking dish. Sprinkle with 1 cup sugar and 1 tsp cinnamon. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, mix flour and shortening with fork. Mix in remaining cup sugar, baking powder, and salt. Add well beaten eggs. Mix. Drop by spoonful over rhubarb. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. If desired, serve with ice cream or whipped cream. Makes 8-12 servings.

What month is the best for coffee?
Feb-BREW-ary



Coffee Hour Hosts for January

Andrine and Joan Haugeberg

Andrine and Josephine Schucker

Betty Carpenter

Twylla McPherson Allie Aldinger

Verle Jones and Lance Phinney

February Birthdays

Feb. 5th George Skerritt

Feb. 11th Kim Vashus

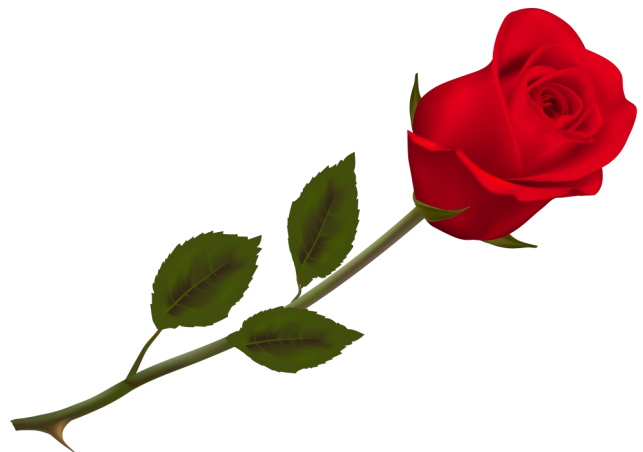
Feb. 12th Charles Powell
Melissa Kwasney

Feb. 14th Ruth Powell

Feb. 17th Heather Haas

Feb. 18th Anne Friestone

Feb. 22nd Cole Neard





February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Nat'l Story Telling Week</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 <i>Wmn in Faith Noon fellowship random Kind- ness Day</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>7pm Ad Board meeting Mardi Gras</i>	21 <i>Mardi Gras</i>	22 <i>Ash Wednesday Soup and Ser- vice 6pm at Zion</i>	23	24	25
26	27 <i>Zoom Study Class 5:30 to 6:30</i>	28				



Newsletter

Glendive & Wibaux

United Methodist Church

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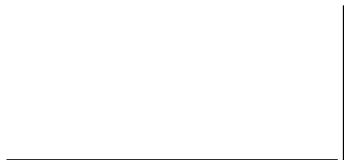
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