



FEBRUARY TIDINGS 2024

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2



AT A GLANCE

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February is a rollercoaster of emotions. Lent begins in February. Lent, a time of repentance, self-examination and reflection. Because my husband was from Louisiana, we often celebrated Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) the day before Ash Wednesday. We ordered a King's Cake from New Orleans and decorated the house with beads of various colors. Of course, the one who got the tiny plastic baby in their slice of cake was the "king or queen" of the night's celebration. Good family fun, but for me it was always a confusing way to begin the Lenten season.

This year Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent falls on Valentine's Day, a traditional celebration of love. Confusing? Maybe. But isn't life like that? There is celebration in the midst of quiet reflection. We remember God's love as we reflect on our own sins. As I think about it, I like the idea of Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day. As we mark our foreheads with ashes, we remember our mortality ("from dust we came, to dust we will return,") and our sinfulness. But don't forget we are launching the path toward Easter where Jesus triumphs over both sin and death. "For God so loved the world..." Now there is a Valentine's Day message.

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REV. MYRA MORELAND

Senior Pastor



A Note From Pastor Myra Continued...

We have a lot of ways to come together and pray and reflect during the Lenten season.

You will find a list of services in this edition of Tidings. And get ready... because in the Lenten season, we are going to dig deep and look at some of the questions about God that nag at us and at our world. Questions like: "Where is God when bad things happen? Does

God hear our prayers?" We will look carefully at our doubts and find a path to a deeper connection with God. (Adam Hamilton's book, *Doubt*, is an anchor for the first half of our Lenten series.) In March, we will flip the script and look at some of the questions God has for us. The Bible is filled with questions and these questions can have new meanings as God speaks to us today.

Lent is indeed a time of reflection and spiritual growth. A time for questions; a time for listening; a time to prepare our hearts for the greatest miracle the world has ever known.

Let's take this road to Easter together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Myra


COME HOME WORSHIP

5PM

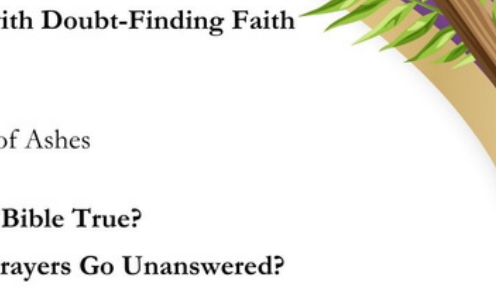
FEBRUARY 25 AND MARCH 10

DINNER FOLLOWING

A SERVICE OF MUSIC AND INSPIRATION



Join us at Troy First UMC this Lenten season as we ask the hard questions, wrestle with our doubts and find a deeper connection with God. Journey with us to Easter, the greatest miracle this world has ever seen.

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- Feb 11: Lenten Series: Wrestling with Doubt-Finding Faith Is There a God?**
 - Feb 14: Ash Wednesday**
8am-7pm Drop in for Self Imposition of Ashes
7pm Ash Wednesday Service
 - Feb 18: 1st Sunday of Lent- Is the Bible True?**
 - Feb. 25: 2nd Sunday of Lent - Do Prayers Go Unanswered?**
10am Traditional Worship
5pm Come Home Worship Service – dinner following
 - Mar. 3: 3rd Sunday of Lent - The Questions God Asks Us - Where Are You?**
 - Mar. 7: 7:00 pm Taize Service**
 - Mar. 10: 4th Sunday of Lent - Where Is Your Brother?**
10am Traditional Worship
5pm Come Home Worship Service – Dinner Following
 - Mar. 17: 5th Sunday of Lent- What Is in Your Hand?**
 - Mar. 24: 10:00 am Palm Sunday Service - What Are You Looking For?**
*Brunch following service
 - Mar. 26: 7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Service**
 - Mar. 28: 7:00 pm Holy Thursday**
 - Mar. 29: 7:00 pm Good Friday, Seven Last Words**
 - Mar.31: Easter Sunday Sunday Services - Why Are You Crying?**
7am Sunrise Service
10am Easter Celebration Service


Lenten Vespers with Pastor Myra Wednesday nights at 6pm Live on FaceBook

Troy First United Methodist Church – 6363 Livernois Rd., Troy, Mi 48098

Ash
Wednesday



We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7pm, but we are also trying something different this year. During the day from 8am until 7pm, we will offer the Self Imposition of Ashes. There will be someone at the Welcome desk to guide you. Come into the chapel and you will find ashes, “suggested” prayers and the words to say as you make the sign of the cross on your forehead. Stay for a moment in prayer, listen to the music and connect with God. Stop by on the way to work or school or during your lunch hour.



A NOTE FROM OUTREACH...

Let's look at the December numbers. The Christmas offering goal was \$5,500, and we received \$6,237.50. Fantastic! 41 food baskets went to The Baldwin Center. 37 gifts for 4 families and \$725 in gift cards went to Auburn Elementary School families. Gift cards, clothes, personal care items, toys, and infant items worth over \$2,000 went to Lighthouse in Pontiac. Much thanks for being so generous!

We intend to volunteer monthly at the Lighthouse Food Pantry and make lunches March 17-23. We continue weekly to deliver food from Starbucks to food pantries. We will invite you to be a friend of Outreach and help out as we announce those projects. Blanket Sunday is February 25. \$10 buys a Church World Service blanket for someone who is suffering from a disaster like a hurricane, flood, or tornado. We invite you to pin a \$10 or \$20 dollar bill on our blanket that will hang by the Welcome Table.

Church World Service, which is the parent of our CROP Walks, has been operating since the end of the Second World War. It distributes tens of thousands of blankets annually. God bless you for whatever you feel called to do on February 25 as we continue this treasured tradition.

Advocacy Day for United Methodists is March 13 at the Michigan State Capital. We will be supporting mental health care access.

Rich Peacock, Chairperson
January 2024



Save the Date---Lighthouse Lunches

March 17-March 23. Making approx. 60 lunches daily to be distributed to our friends at the Lighthouse Family Shelter in Pontiac.

**Details, times and sign-ups will be coming later in February.
Look for more info in This Week at Troy 1st and March Tidings.**

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

On Thursday February 8th, at 11:30 AM we will have a combined general meeting of our Deborah and Ruth Circles to elect officers and welcome new members from St. Paul. This will be a potluck lunch and Rev. Chuck Sonquist will present a program on "Care for the Caregiver".

Other February happenings include the District Prayer Breakfast on February 10th and a Fellowship Luncheon on February 20th at 11:30 at Buddy's Pizza. All ladies are welcome to join us!

Nancy Dolehanty
UWF President



FOOD DRIVE FOR LIGHTHOUSE



ITEMS NEEDED

- MACARONI & CHEESE
- PEANUT BUTTER
- JELLY
- CANNED SOUP
- CANNED MEATS
- BOXED POTATOES
- DRY PASTA
- RICE
- GRANOLA BARS
- CEREAL
- POWDERED MILK

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1** Suzanne Morgan, Levi Shock,
Alyssa Chambers
- 3** Suzanne Wesp, Judy & Art Stone, Dave Douglas
- 4** Doug Goudie, Art Stone
- 6** Roger Steiger, Jennifer Voight
- 7** Luke Frank
- 10** Amanda Ostergaard
- 13** Chuck Sonquist
- 14** Brenda Michaux, Terry Oliver
- 16** Jane Egermann
- 17** Carolyn Newcomb, Dane Slater
- 22** Anne & Jay Hernandez, John Northey
- 23** Doris Henry
- 25** Martha Blair, Kaj Ostergaard
- 28** Elizabeth Ostergaard Crandell

Troy First United Methodist Staff



Rev. Myra Moreland
Senior Pastor



Rev. George Marck
Associate Pastor



Rev. Chuck Sonquist
Associate Pastor of Care



Laynie Bryant
Admin & HR Coordinator



Lisa Head
Ministries Facilitator



Corinna Olesen
Children & Youth Coordinator



Tim Schoenherr
Music Director



Sheryl Dukes
Handbell Director



Debi Szeliga
Collabrative Pianist & Organist



Sharon Smith
Receptionist