

NORTHRIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2023

SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar. It commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan before beginning his public ministry. This is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22 this year, and ends with Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, April 9.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.

For Methodists, observing Ash Wednesday or using ashes on Ash Wednesday is a fairly new practice. John Wesley eliminated Lent altogether for Methodists in 1784. American Methodists had no ritual at all for Ash Wednesday until the 1965 Book of Worship, which many Methodist churches and pastors didn't have, and that service made no provision for the use of ashes. The first time The United Methodist Church had an official ritual for Ash Wednesday was in the 1992 Book of Worship, and the use of ashes is optional.

Many during Lent make a sacrificial gesture to commemorate Christ's struggle. Here are 10 suggestions to consider to remember the holy in the midst of our routines.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Worship | 2. Serve |
| 3. Give | 4. Abstain/Fast |
| 5. Pray your day | 6. Make something |
| 7. Be still | 8. Clean something |
| 9. Burn something | 10. Forgive and seek forgiveness |

May you have a blessed Lent!

Karen Grube, Lay Leader

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Thank you to all who came and participated in our Women's Luncheon on February 18. A special thanks to the committee that planned, coordinated, and put together the luncheon: Dollie Allen, Kay Elam, Karen Grube, Phyllis Hill, Cheryl Hinkle, Guelda Nelson, Sonnie Rike, and Nancy Zerkle. A special thanks to our guest speaker, Connie Bost. Connie is a retired Clark County teacher and helps coordinate the one-room schoolhouse—Advance One-Room School No. 7 near New Carlisle. For more information, please see <https://advanceoneroomschool.blogspot.com>.

During our luncheon, there was discussion about starting a Women's Breakfast/Lunch group again. Since many are no longer able to drive at night, a sign up sheet was provided in the Fellowship Hall after the February 19th worship service. Based on the feedback, we will have our first breakfast/lunch on the first Saturday of March—**March 4 at 12 noon at Studebaker's on 41.**

This will let the Men's Group meet for breakfast at 8:30 AM, and then let the Women's Group come and enjoy lunch. I know that if the men have more than 20 people attend breakfast, Pastor Ken buys the meal. Maybe the Lay Leader will do that if the women have more than 20 attend lunch.

We look forward to seeing the women meet together on a regular basis!



LENTEN SOUP AND BIBLE STUDY

We will be having soup and Bible study on **Sunday nights during Lent**. Our first night of study is Sunday, February 26. **The session starts at 6PM**. We will be studying "Surprised by Hope—Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church" by N. T. Wright.

Nicholas Thomas Wright (born December 1, 1948) is an English New Testament Scholar and is a Pauline theologian and Anglican Bishop. Wright writes about theology and Christian life and the relationship between them.

Please join us for this Lenten Bible study.

For Your Information

- **Bible Study** is held each Wednesday at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Anyone interested in joining the **Bell Choir** should contact Jane Adams (937 605 2880)
- Trustees **Yard Sale** is to be held May 13th. More details to come.



MARCH MISSIONS COLLECTIONS

During March, the Missions Committee will have Lenten Offering Envelopes available – March 5, 12, 19, 26.

Money from offerings goes to Central Community Kitchen and Sheltered, Inc. (formerly IHN).

UPCOMING DATES:

March 4: 8:30AM—Men's Breakfast at Studebaker's on 41

March 4: 12Noon—Women's Breakfast/Lunch at Studebaker's on 41

Every Sunday night from February 26 through April 2—6PM Soup and Lenten Study

April 2—Palm Sunday

April 6—Maundy Thursday

April 7—Good Friday

April 8—Easter Egg Hunt

April 9—Easter

Youth Group Prepares for Easter Egg Hunt

The youth group is preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt and is requesting individually wrapped pieces of candy to be donated. All donations can be brought to church and/or placed in the Youth Room, opposite the Church Office.

Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 8. Last year they prepared over 10,000 eggs!!! Any questions, please get in touch with Jordan Clawson or Emily Terry.

They appreciate your support.



Northridge United Methodist Church
4610 Derr Road, Springfield, OH 45503
Phone: 937-399-1909
Email: NUMC 4610@sbcglobal.net
Pastor: Rev. Ken Woode
Secretary: Sheryl Jones