

For His Glory

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER
TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From Pastor David

Ash Wednesday, February 17 marks the beginning of Lent this year. Often, our Lenten focus revolves around reflecting upon our fallen and sinful condition, admitting to this sin and brokenness and turning back toward God. Often, Lenten disciplines of fasting and denial seek to excise from our lives those things that keep us from fully becoming Christ's own. For me, it's difficult not to reflect back as we approach the season of Lent this year. After all, it was in the beginning of Lent last year that the realities of a global pandemic reached our nation. It has been a long and trying year since we began our Lenten journey and the shutdown that followed the arrival of COVID-19 to our nation. It has been a year of denial and struggle. Considering all of this, I want our focus as a church during Lent this year to be one of acceptance over denial, adding to rather than taking away, saying yes instead of saying no. As we prepare for Lent, what is Christ calling you to add into your life? What is Christ calling you to start doing? How is Christ calling you to service in new ways? What is Christ calling you to say "Yes!" to?

I look forward to worshiping on Ash Wednesday with everyone (whether it be in person or online). We'll meet on February 17 at 5:30 for a pancake supper and have our Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30.

Mowing Help Needed!

We have been blessed with a group of men who have been able to volunteer their time to mow our church grounds. We thank them for their hard work over the last number of years which has kept our property looking beautiful. As spring approaches, we have a need for some new volunteers to help with mowing the property surrounding the church. If you would like to assist, or wish for more information about what volunteering would entail, please contact Pastor David.

From Pastor David continued...

It has been some time since I have written an update regarding the future of the United Methodist Church. The last update that I wrote was to inform everyone that the General Conference scheduled for May 2020 had been postponed due to COVID-19. Since that time there hasn't been much of a need for an update because, frankly there hasn't been much news in this area to report. Our denomination is currently existing in a state of limbo in regard to our future. A year ago, the winds of change were blowing and a schism within the denomination seemed imminent. Before 2019, prevailing opinion within the denomination was to maintain unity at all cost, but after a special session of General Conference that same year which was meant to find a way forward through what divides us, opinions changed on both sides of the aisle and the consensus seemed to shift toward amicable separation. This was the state of our denomination when the Coronavirus put everything on hiatus.

Currently, General Conference is expected to be held from August 29 through September 7 of this year. There is no indication of plans to postpone this session of General Conference. While I try not to speak in absolutes regarding matters that have yet to occur, I feel with a high level of certainty that the United Methodist Church will not emerge from this session of General Conference as a united denomination. Now, what happens after involves too much uncertainty and speculation at this time for me to comment in any meaningful way. Ultimately, when the anticipated schism occurs, each church and each pastor will be required to determine which denomination to call home. We are still many months away from this however and there is no real way to know how this process is to play out. I write this month not to incite speculation, worry, or fear but simply to inform. At this moment our task is to join together to support and uplift the life, missions, and ministries of our congregation and to witness to Jesus in all we are and do.



Youth News!

Thank you all for the wonderful Christmas gifts. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving church!

I am currently working on and planning mission trip. More details to come later!!

Our annual Spaghetti Supper to raise money for mission trip will be moved to March!

We're excited to be meeting again, and looking forward to a healthy spring and summer!!

In Christ,
Joey Gresham

February Birthdays

1 Liz Pincombe
3 John Coleman
4 Susan Neal, M'Lynn Hobbs, Baylee Crawford
5 Stacy Bastin, Megan Gersbach, Jennifer Naser
6 Pete Rondeau, August Brauer
9 Ed Luna
11 Erian Medrano
12 Nancy Sammons, Clara O'Donnell
13 CJ Porter
14 Gary Doughty
15 Luke Williams
16 Ellie Ray
17 Jalee Luna
18 Erin Sims
19 Barbara Thompson
21 Christin Ivey
23 Shirley Ketcham, Mike O'Donnell, Bowyn Jarma
25 Jett Coleman
27 Amber Gresham

February Anniversaries

10 Jim & Eva Marie Trantum
15 Joe & Diana Massey
23 Russell & Joyce Reinhardt

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Dear David and Church Friends,
Thank you so much for the "Giving Manger" sets for our young grandson and great grandchildren. What a wonderful tool for teaching children about the birth of our Savior and His love for us. You certainly have shown your love in sharing these gifts, and they will be treasured for many years, and hopefully passed on to future generations.

What a blessing to be a part of such a loving church. Thank you for all you do and for who you are.

We look forward to worshipping "in person" but appreciate the opportunity to do so online at this time.

Sincerely,
B.J. & Kay Nan Ledger

MEMORIALS

~ *In memory of Tommy Ross* by Charlie & Janice Porter, Tooter & Susan Creech
~ *In memory of Karen Johnson-Rejcek* by Charlie & Janice Porter, Richard & Betty Hester, Tooter & Susan Creech
~ *In memory of Virgie Gilliland* by Richard & Betty Hester, Tooter & Susan Creech, Katherine Maedgen, Charlie & Janice Porter, Tim & Janice Kirkscey
~ *In memory of Mike Vargeson* by Tim & Janice Kirkscey