



For His Glory

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TROY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | MARCH 2022

From Pastor David

As I sit down to write this newsletter article, I have ashes on my mind. I have just gotten home from offering Ashes to Go in our community, and will celebrate Ash Wednesday later on in the day. Yesterday, I took the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday worship and burned them in a bowl to make the ashes that are a part of our ritual this day. A few weeks ago, I went to check on folks after a grass fire and helped to hose down still smoldering patches of yard. I've had ashes on my mind. After all, they're a fitting symbol to begin Lent. After a fire sweeps through an area, they are what remains. They drift in the wind, cling to shoes and clothes, carry the scent of smoke, blanket an area in drab greys and black. When I was in college, I went dove hunting with a friend at his family's place in East Texas. They had a recent fire on part of their land and called the burned and charred area the "Moon Scape", evoking images of a place devoid of life and growth. This is the symbol that we begin the season of Lent with. The remains of what once was, lifeless, still carrying the faint scent of the consuming flames.

As we enter Lent and the season of penitence and soul searching that precedes Easter, it is simple to become overwhelmed with the sorrow of the season and not to keep our eyes fixed on hope. If the fasts we endeavor to take remain solely about what we give up and do not also focus on what we are adding to our lives we can get caught in this trap. Yes, we realistically appraise our brokenness and sin, and offer it to Christ. But we need to do so in hope.

As I've said, I have had ashes on my mind. There's something about a burned landscape that can sap us of hope. When the flames of life seem to char us to the core, it's easy to lose sight of hope. When I was young, there was a grass fire that swept through the area where I grew up.. A neighbor down the road was welding on a dry windy day in summer and before he knew it a fire was raging beyond his control. After the fire I was looking out at our burned land and said to my dad, "Now we don't have any grass." He stood beside me and said, "Just wait." It wasn't long after that rain fell and a soft green blanket overcame the ashes of what was there before. The fire had removed the old thatch allowing the new to come in and I don't think I had ever seen more beautiful grass.

This Lent, fix your hope on Jesus and the renewing rains of His grace when you face the ashes and charred places of life. Know that the ashes aren't there forever, but through faith represent all that we need to leave in the past to find a continually new life in Christ. May you leave the past in ashes this Lent, and return to God. That on Easter morning, you may know the life giving and resurrecting power of Christ anew.

Troy UMC is hiring! We are seeking qualified applicants for two positions.

Director of Music Ministries - 15 hours a week, responsible for leading the church's praise band, recruiting and empowering volunteer musicians, leading the singing in both worship services, and helping to create an uplifting and spiritual worship experience.

Children's Ministry Director - 15 hours a week, responsible for overseeing the children's programs from birth to 5th grade and recruiting, training, and equipping volunteer leaders to help disciple our church's children to becoming committed followers of Christ.

If you, or someone you know is interested in applying for either of these positions, please call the church office for a detailed Job Description and Application or talk with pastor David.

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Troy UMC Family,

I am writing to you to inform you that I have resigned my position as the Children's and Cross-Generation Ministry Leader effective the end of March. While this has been a difficult and bittersweet decision, I have been afforded an opportunity to advance my career as a social worker. This opportunity requires me to work in a clinical setting on weekends which is why I must step down from my position. This is something that I have prayed for and while the timing isn't perfect, it is one I am excited to explore. I truly believe that the Lord has choreographed this for me.

You are all my family and I am not leaving the church. I will still be an active participant in prayer and service whenever I am able, but I do not believe I can serve in the ministry capacity and not be there in person the majority of Sunday mornings. I am exceedingly grateful for all the opportunities and support you have provided over the last 14 years. I look forward to watching this congregation grow in numbers as you heed the calling of the great commission...Go, and make disciples!

I covet your prayers during this new experience. I know you will be in my daily prayers. Thank you for allowing me these years to serve along side you. You have ministered to me in ways I can never repay.

Until we see each other again,
Christin Ivey

Volunteers needed to stand in the gap for Children's Ministry!

(Christin will continue to be a support and provide resources and ideas but will not be available for these events)

Substitute LYFE Group Leaders

Lead the children with the waving of the palm on Palm Sunday

Coordinate and lead the Easter Eggstravaganza

Plan and coordinate (with our partnering church) VBS decor

Director of VBS

Please feel free to reach out to Christin (254-541-6873) with any questions about these.

Stephen Ministry has some exciting news to share with you. After only having one Stephen Leader since 2019, we will soon have another Stephen Leader. Pam Lewis has agreed to become a Stephen Leader and begins Stephen Leader training on March 15th. She could use all of our prayers as she attends training and as she follows God's call into the leadership of this ministry that is so close to my heart. Pam will bring new ideas and leadership gifts to this ministry, and I can't wait to see what new ways we can serve the hurting of our congregation and community with her support. Once she has completed the training, we will officially commission her as a congregation during Sunday worship.

In addition to adding Pam to Stephen Ministry leadership, Pam and I hope to add Stephen Ministers, increasing our ability to help those facing hard times and serve our church family and community in new ways. We will be beginning Stephen Minister training this April after Easter, with the class ending at the beginning of July. If you have ever considered becoming a Stephen Minister, now may be an excellent time to volunteer. If you have never considered being a Stephen Minister but feel like you have the gifts and abilities to walk alongside someone who is struggling, now would be a good time to check it out.

We will have a Stephen Minister information sessions on March 20th and 27th at 10:00 during the Sunday School hour for anyone interested in learning more. We will talk about what Stephen Ministers do, training for Stephen Ministers, and what commitment being a Stephen Minister requires. If you can't make it to an informational meeting but want more information, don't hesitate to contact me at shashawna@troymethodist.org or 254-541-5530, and I will be happy to talk with you about becoming a Stephen Minister.

Even if you are personally not interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, you can still help by praying for this ministry and those who will be called to be Stephen Ministers and by referring family and friends to Stephen Ministry if they need help or support.

ShaShawna Bush
Stephen Leader



YOUTH NEWS

Calendar

March

6th - Spaghetti Supper

13th - R.A.K. Even 4-7pm

(Sign up for Mission Trip Launches)

20th - Bible Study and Games 5-7pm

27th - Bible Study and Games 5-7pm

April

3rd - Bowling 4-7pm

10th - Bible Study and Games 5 -7pm

17th - No Youth (Easter)

24th - Bible Study and Games 5-7pm

******March 20th at 4pm we will have a youth parents meeting to get ideas of what people want for the youth and our group.**



Spaghetti DINNER FUNDRAISER

Youth Hosted Spaghetti Meal

Sunday, March 6

To go and dine in 5-7:00

Dessert donations appreciated



Birthdays

- 4 Katherine Maedgen
- 9 Emily Joliff
- 10 Shirley Haas, Betty Hester
- 12 Zach Allen, Drew Mitchell
- 15 Darryce Ross, Melissa O'Donnell, Donal Bush
- 17 Manette Fowler, Jana Letbetter, Amber Crawford
- 20 David Coufal
- 21 Brigitte Allen, Adam Roessler, Becca Jolliff
- 22 Joshua Bastin
- 23 Johnny Giebler
- 25 Sean Huffman
- 26 Georgie Mitchell
- 27 Diana Massey
- 29 Carolyn Walston
- 30 Bret Allen
- 31 Brady Hart

Anniversaries

- 14 Cameron & Jamie Roucloux
- 16 Joey & Amber Gresham
- 20 Robert & Megan Mick
- 23 Jack & Becky Hobday



*You are invited to a Bridal Shower
honoring*

***Hannah Maedgen,
bride-elect of Lance Sefcik***

Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Troy United Methodist Church

theknot.com/hannahandlancesayyes

Registered at:

Dillard's, Amazon and Replacements

MEMORIALS

~ In memory of Patricia Lewis by Katherine Maedgen, Charlie & Janice Porter, Richard & Betty Hester

*~ In memory of Betty Pitts by Katherine Maedgen, Charlie & Janice Porter, Richard & Betty Hester,
Tooter & Susan Creech*

~ In memory of Larry Hester by B.J. & Kay Nan Ledger

