

Feb. 2024

SEASON : LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT IS UPON US

This year, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincide (Feb. 14). This coincidence introduces an interesting, yet profoundly fitting, conjunction of images: flowers, candy, and professions of love alongside ashes and repentance. Both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are about communicating commitments of love and devotion to a beloved.

Thinking about communicating devotion, this Lent we'll focus on the practice of prayer. Prayer is a way we talk and listen to God - both offering ourselves to God's presence and work and receiving grace from God. This missional mailer includes multiple ways to participate in the life of the church this season. Lent is a season to invite God to [stretch us](#), [grow us](#), and [transform us](#) through mindful practices.

The pastors will host two different groups during Lent:

- 1) a study group on prayer with Pastor Matt; Thursdays at noon in the Heritage Room February 15-March 21;
- 2) an evening prayer group with Pastor Seungli via Zoom; Tuesdays 8:30pm February 20-March 26.

In worship, we'll explore prayer through the Gospel of Luke. We invite you to read the Gospel of Luke in its entirety this season. Additionally, each week will introduce a particular way of praying. Here are each week's titles, scriptures, and suggested prayer practices

WHAT DO THESE MEAN?

[Ash Wednesday](#): The first day of Lent, ashes & communion help us recognize our need for God's grace - God's offer at grace.

[Maundy Thursday](#): A day in which we remember Jesus's supper with his disciples, & his call to servant love.

[Good Friday](#): The day we remember Jesus's death ; an act of God's complete, self-giving love.

ASH WEDNESDAY - TEACH US TO PRAY - PS 51

FEB 18 - PRAYING SCRIPTURE - LU 4:1-13

- Memorize a scripture verse that speaks to the hope or courage you need.
- Make a scripture verse or passage into a prayer.

FEB 25 - LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY - LU 11:1-13

- Pray the Lord's Prayer every day. Consider learning it in another language useful to you.
- Journal the Lord's Prayer, expanding each phrase with your own words, prayers, questions, and desires.

MAR 3 - GIVING THANKS - LU 22:14-20

- Make an intentional effort to mindfully pray at table. What are you praying for? Why? What is God's role in the food and that meal?
- Memorize a new table prayer, or write one for yourself and others to share.
- Consider your stewardship: how can giving be an act of thanks, prayer, and praise?

MAR 10 - IN A SPACE APART - LU 6:1, 9:10-11, 9:28-36, 22:39-42

- If aloneness is a thing you appreciate, consider making a daily practice this week of praying in solitude.
- Create a space of time for prayer with others a few times this week, digitally, on the phone, or in person.

MAR 17 - SURRENDER (MOUNT OF OLIVES) - LU 22:39-43, 23:46

- Make Jesus's prayers here our prayers for each day this week.
- Pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer each day this week.

MAR 24 - PRAISE (PALM-PASSION SUNDAY) - LU 19:29-40

- Take a prayer walk at least twice this week (or daily), pondering God with each step, and giving thanks to God for each little part of that experience.
- Walk the prayer labyrinth at Yanney Park as many times as you can.

FEBRUARY

CALENDER:

- ♥ Heart for the Hungry (Battle of the ages)
- ♥ 2/07 Wednesday Night Meal/Worship
- ♥ 2/09 Health & Wellness Blood Drive
- ♥ 2/12 Grief Share
- ♥ 2/14 Wednesday Night Meal
- ✝ 2/14 Ash Wednesday
- ♥ 2/15 Prayer Study (Pastor Matt)
- ♥ 2/18 Youth Valentines Dinner / Dance
- ♥ 2/20 Evening Prayer (Pastor Suengli)
- ♥ 2/21 Confirmation Class
- ♥ 2/21 Wednesday Night Meal/ Worship
- ♥ 2/28 Wednesday Night Meal/ Worship

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

MEALS:

Come host a Wednesday Night Meal at Kearney First UMC! The Church will Give your group \$150 + the money left in the offering box!. Your Group will be responsible for setup/cleanup & providing a meal! Meal is from 5:00-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall!

MENU

- 2/07 Spaghetti
- 2/14 Chicken Fried Steak
- 2/21 Vegetable Soup
- 2/28 Walking Tacos

Join Us for
ASH WEDNESDAY ✝
First Day Of Lent

Feb. 14th
6:30pm

Sanctuary

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Small Groups

Be Encouraged
Be Inspired
Be Supported

Be apart of something bigger than yourself
Join a small group today

Visit our website to join a group : www.kearneyfirstumc.org



Heart For The Hungry!

{All Month of February}

Children's Ministry VS Youth Ministries VS Pumpkin Patch

Our children and youth are competing to bring in **NEW** non-perishable food donations for the East Lawn Food Pantry.

VALENTINE'S

Dinner and Dance

SUNDAY FEB. 18 | 5-8 PM | GYM

TICKETS: 1 FOR \$25 | 2 FOR \$45 | 6 FOR \$120

AVAILABLE IN CHURCH OFFICE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO KFUMC YOUTH GROUPS



Join Us For An

EASTER EGG HUNT!

March 24th | Following 9:30 & 11:00 Services

Face Painting, Photo area & Crafts

Donate candy for the egg hunt by March 10th

MISSIONAL GIVING

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Jubilee Center - \$ 1,948
Habitat for Humanity - \$ 1,980
Hot Meals USA - \$ 2,142
United Campus - \$ 1,835
East Lawn - \$ 2,185
UMCOR - \$ 1,815

A total of \$ 11,905 was raised!

We did not do the traditional Thanksgiving offering in 2023. We did a special offering for **Give Where You Live** and split it equally to our church ministries that were a part of the **GWYL** (East Lawn & Pumpkin Patch). We raised a total of \$1,159!

GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you for practicing generosity through the church for these ministry partners. Through giving, God grows God's image of generosity in us and blesses others through ministries of **mercy, justice and discipleship**.

MESSAGE FROM GATEWAY DISTRICT

Thank you for reaching 100% of your 2023 Great Plains Mission Shares. Your support of our connective ministry truly makes a difference in the lives of people in churches and communities in our conference. We used to call our Mission Share "Apportionments" - a portion meant for others. Your portion enables us to be in ministry and mission in substantial ways together locally and globally. From faith development of children and youth to leadership development of pastors and laity, we strive to keep God's call upon our lives ever before us.

Growth in our relationship with God is God's primary way of blessing others and transforming the world. As we focus on our relationship with God through our practices, during this season, we have a tradition of also focusing on where our gifts and abilities can intersect with the deep needs of those in our community. To this end, the Finance Committee of Kearney First invites us to practice generosity through missional giving through the church, over and above our regular giving to Christ's mission through Kearney First UMC.

Please prayerfully consider giving to one or more of these missional ministries through this season's missional offering. You can use the enclosed envelope, or giving online through the website or the mobile app. Please note the enclosed offering envelope is only for the Lenten offering, not regular, church ministry giving. You may designate your missional giving to a particular ministry. Undesignated gifts will be distributed to each of the missional partners, which are described below.

Habitat for Humanity [Goal of \$2,500]:

Partners with clients to provide & promote home ownership and financial self-sufficiency.

Collage [Goal of \$2,500]:

This agency offers care and support to men and women who are facing unexpected challenges associated with pregnancy and STDs.

Compass [goal of \$2,500]:

This agency provides support, training, and financial assistance to foster families.

East Lawn Food Pantry [goal of \$2,500]:

A mission within the church that provides food to those in need in Buffalo County.

Thank you for your generosity!



If you would like to give using our mobile app, scan the QR code!

First United Methodist Church

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Website: www.kearneyfirstumc.org

Non-Profit Organization

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Kearney , NE

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kearney

First United Methodist Church



LIBRARY UPDATE

As we approach the season of Lent, we wanted to remind everyone that the Lenten/Easter books are now on the shelves all year. You will find them in the center section of the library. The adult collection is on the west side and the children's is on the east. DVDs for the holidays have also been moved to the same areas as the holiday books and are no longer in with the rest of the DVDs.

In addition, we wanted to let all church members and especially the ladies that belong to the United Women of Faith that the 2024 books are now available for check out. For those of you that aren't familiar with the program, UWF has a reading program that addresses the areas of: 1) spiritual growth, 2) missions, 3) leadership development, 4) social action and 5) nurture community. These books are on the cart directly in front of you as you enter the library and are separated into the years they were added to the library. The UWF members can log their reading to help the unit obtain a "reading status" but the books are available to all library users and may be checked out any time.

Please feel free to come in on Sunday mornings and ask one of our awesome volunteers if you have any questions about the library. If they don't know the answer, they can leave a note and one of us will do our best to find an answer for you.

And last but not least..... "Hurray for warmer weather!!!" As I write this, we are experiencing the first of what is supposed to be a string of days above 20 degrees and that makes me very, very happy!