

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, February 15, 2024

THIS SUNDAY

Bring **boxed scalloped potatoes** to donate for our Easter Giveaway

Faith Formation will begin at 9:30 am with all classes (K – 12) meeting together. The adults will continue discussing Katherine May's *Wintering*, this week focusing on February.

As we gather at 10:30 on this 1st Sunday in Lent, we will consider making a quiet place in our hearts, our minds, and our lives. Pastor Vicki's sermon will focus on Mark 1:9-15, symbolized by a dove, skillfully carved into a gourd by Kathy McKenna. Cindy Stout will assist in worship leadership. The choir's anthem is *Cast Thy Burdens Upon the Lord*. After a children's time with Alex, the kids will be excused for nursery. Following worship, Katrina Andersen is hosting Coffee Hour. If you cannot attend worship in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com All are welcome!

11:45 All men will gather in the Board Room for an introduction to *The Last Supper*.

NEXT WEEK

Monday Our office is closed for Presidents Holiday.
Asbestos removal from the basement begins.

Tuesday

4:30 In-person discussion of the 1st Sunday in Lent from the *Poetry of Lent*.

6:30 New Trustees meet for updates and training.

7:00 All Trustees meet.

Thursday

12:15 ZOOM discussion of the 1st Sunday in Lent from the *Poetry of Lent*.

Saturday

10:00 Join Belinda Burtson in the kitchen and learn how to make delicious biscuits.

Sunday

9:30 Faith Formation for all ages.

10:30 Worship on the 2nd Sunday of Lent

Coffee Hour hosted by Carol Costell Corbin and Lisa Jones.

11:45 The Outreach Team will meet.

COMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Tuesday, Feb. 27 **Church Council meeting** at 6:30 PM.

Thursday, Feb. 29 **Lenten Dinner for Youth (grades 7-12)** from 5 – 7 PM
Beginning on leap-year (Thursday), join Stef Fellows and Pastor Vicki at the manse for dinner and devotions. When you arrive at 5 PM, we'll cook, eat, and clean up, finishing in plenty of time for you to get your homework done.

FOR OUR PONDERING...

I learned a long time ago – whatever I pack for the journey, I will have to carry. That's why I never want to pack a lot. The clothes are laid out on the bed, outfits based on similar colors – fewer pairs of pants that way. A vest that goes with white and pink and blue – consolidates the bulkiness of sweaters. If we can do laundry while we're on this trip – then less of everything. Good.

But then there are the electronics. I need my Kindle for reading, including the charger. Oh yes, my tablet (another charger). What if I want to listen without bothering anyone else? Headphones and (you guessed it) the charger for them. Don't forget the phone charger. Oh, and the Bluetooth keyboard that connects to the tablet. Batteries rather than a charger for the keyboard. Masks? Check. Umbrella (cuts down on needing a coat with a hood). Check. Spare outfit in the carry-on because what if they lose my luggage? Bottle of water, or better yet, a refillable water bottle. [This carry-on is getting heavy.] Wait – what if we get to see birds? I'll want my binoculars and the bird book so I can look things up and mark down the new birds I'm seeing. Let's not forget the rule: you pack it; you carry it.

After all is said and done, I rarely need anything except the camera on my phone. Truthfully, the time away is best when I pay attention to what is around me, making time to see and listen and taste and simply breathe. The time away is best when I let it be a quiet space in my life and in my mind.

Today's journey is toward Jerusalem, via the paths of Homer/Cortland and the aisles of our church. I'll wear black this Ash Wednesday (with special heart-socks, my nod to Valentines Day). And this year, all I need to pack is a Bible, the booklet called *The Poetry of Lent*, and Mary Oliver's poems. Together, we will also carry a set of gourds that symbolize our Holy Writing through this season.

And on our journey, we will make a quiet place as we learn to sing the lyrics:

I will make a quiet place, a quiet place within my heart.
And I will wait upon the Lord – wait upon the Lord.

I will make a quiet place, a quiet place within my mind.
And I will wait upon the Lord – wait upon the Lord.

Be still my soul, be still. Be still my soul, be still. Be still and know...

I will make a quiet place, a quiet place within my life.
And I will wait upon the Lord – wait upon the Lord.

Once again we receive the ashes that connect us to the dust being photographed by the James Webb Telescope and the dust of our own humanity. As we travel, it will be best if we pay attention to what is around us, making time to see and listen and taste and simply breathe. This season, in our quiet places, we will consider Mary Oliver's question from "The Summer Day": *...what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?*

I am glad for each one of you – companions on the journey – and for the One we follow along the paths in the wilderness and all the way to the ultimately empty, tomb.