

Gray Weekly News

WEEK LEADING TO SUNDAY, February 18, 2018



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent

Our Scripture readings are:

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Sermon Series: Covenant

Sermon Title: A Global Guarantee

Notes this week: Pastor Jack can be reached on his cell phone at 407-405-0136. Feel free to call or text him as needed. You may also reach him personally by e-mailing him at jack.ladd@flumc.org.

The church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 12:30. You may reach Anita Durham, church secretary, at 850-385-6441.

News and Notes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, February 14
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

Saturday, February 17
Fun Night 6:30pm

Sunday, February 18
"Fresh Expressions" Lenten Study 4pm
(Sundays 4pm through March 25)



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 16, 2pm & 7 pm
"A Town Divided"

Free performance by Southern Shakespeare Company, sponsored by TCC at TCC's Turner Auditorium. This is a unique production, inviting community conversations about race in our city. The 2pm performance will be followed by a community talk-back (moderated by Barby Moro with the Village Square) with local commissioners, sheriff, TCC faculty, and faith leaders.

The 7pm performance will be followed by Sonnet Man (Devon Glover), sponsored by Centennial Bank, performing sonnets and spoken word with local high school students.

Sunday, February 18, 6:30 pm
Free Concert – Emmaus Road Quartet
Tallahassee Heights United Methodist Church
3004 Mahan Dr. Tallahassee FL 32308



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, March 9
Fabulous Friday 6:30pm

Saturday, March 10
Work Day at Gray MUMC

Sunday, March 11
UMCOR Sunday
Donations help pay the basic operating expenses for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, allowing 100 percent of other contributions to go to the programs they are designated for.

Spring & Fall Bus Driver Needed

Grace Mission is looking for a Bus Driver for their afterschool Program. Part-time driving a 12-passenger bus/15 passenger van to transport students from Riley Elementary to FSU After-School Program; then take from FSU to Springfield Apt's at 6pm. Hours are 2:30-3:30pm and 5:30-7:00pm on Tues/Wed/Thur. Background check and drug test required; good driving record; \$10/hour, no benefits. If interested, please call Elizabeth Crowe at 850-224-3817.



Click [here](#) for By the Numbers as of February 11, 2018.
2014 Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, Tallahassee, FL
Contact (850) 385-6441 or email: graymumc@comcast.net

Gray Scripture Picture

My preliminary thoughts regarding the week's Scripture focus at Gray. Comments are welcome and encouraged!

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Lenten series: Covenant

As we enter the season of Lent, we come again into a time where Christians emphasize their prayer life, fasting, and service. Christians remember the life of Jesus and his ministry of preaching, teaching, healing, and ultimately dying on the cross to save us from our sins and isolation from God. With that said, it is one of the most meaningful seasons of the year for those who follow Jesus.

**"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."**



Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins tomorrow with Ash Wednesday (there will be a service here at GMUMC at 7:00). The season of Lent begins with the imposition of ashes on the forehead, and the words: from dust you came, and to dust you will return. We are reminded of our mortality and deepest need for Christ to enter into our hearts, souls, and our world. We come from dirt. We are dirt, and we need to be cleaned by loving mercy of God.

As a child, I loved to play in the dirt. But that kind of goes away as an adult, doesn't it? I no longer enjoy being dirty. I desire to be clean. I want my house clean, the church clean, and the world to be clean. And maybe this doesn't mean that dirt goes away--any productive and fruitful garden needs good dirt. Perhaps Jesus makes the dirt in our life productive. Jesus heals us, and makes us clean (Psalm 51).

As we enter into the season, I want to offer you a great resource for your prayer life. It was produced by my friend and colleague Dan Wunderlich. The [2018 Lent Prayer Calendar](#) (click to download and print) offers a prayer guide for each day during Lent.

Whether you use this, or perhaps sign up for devotionals to be sent to your inbox each day at #pictureLent (highly recommend, click to sign up), or find other ways to engage with God through prayer, fasting (or adding a spiritual practice), and service, I invite you to seek Christ through this period of 40 days.



Here at GMUMC, we will be focusing on the word "covenant" during Lent. We will explore the promises that God has made to us, what it means to live in a covenant relationship with God, and that ultimately God's love for us is unbreakable/unconditional. This Sunday, we will focus on Genesis 9: 8-17. Go ahead and read it now so that God may begin moving in your heart as you prepare for our time together on Sunday! Ask yourself: How does God's covenant with Noah shape your view of creation? What does this covenant mean for you today?

In Christ,

Jack

Lent Prayer Calendar 2018

Weekly Theme: Internal

☐ **Wednesday, February 14 (Ash Wednesday, Lent Day 1)– My sin**

Reflect on areas where your thoughts and actions have separated you from God, others, and yourself. Ask God to make you aware of unrealized sin, and accept God's forgiveness.

☐ **Thursday, February 15 (Lent Day 2)– My limitations**

Reflect on areas where you don't feel 100% or where you have experienced failure. Turn your limitations over to God who is our strength.

☐ **Friday, February 16 (Lent Day 3)– My doubts**

Admit to God those areas where you struggle with questions and doubt. Don't worry—God already knows, and God can handle it. Ask God to bring you perspective and peace.

☐ **Saturday, February 17 (Lent Day 4)– My resources**

Give thanks to God for the resources you do have, ask God for provision where you experience lack, and ask God to show you the difference between wants and needs.

☐ **Sunday, February 18 (Little Easter 1)– My relationship with God**

Thank God for initiating a relationship with you, and ask God to continue to shape you into the person God is calling you to be. Ask God to show you areas where you can better connect.

Weekly Theme: External

☐ **Monday, February 19 (Lent Day 5)–Friends and family**

Give thanks for the people who fill and color your life and bring you joy. Give thanks for the support they give you, and ask God how you can support them in return.

☐ **Tuesday, February 20 (Lent Day 6)–Enemies**

One of the most difficult commands Christ gave us was to pray for our enemies. In the spirit of peace and forgiveness, pray for those individuals, organizations, and even nations that you view as adversaries.

(We will include each week from Tuesday-Tuesday since that is when we send out our newsletter!)