



February 21, 2023 Vol. 75, No. 8

## Our Journey to Easter

## WATCH

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday. This is the day that marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the 40-day period (not including Sundays) before Easter. For many people, it is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial. However, these activities are not the purpose of Lent. The purpose is to prepare for Easter.

In Matthew 6:16, Jesus says, "Whenever you fast, do not look dismal like the hypocrites." They fast for the purpose of fasting. Hypocrites fast to make sure everyone knows they are fasting. It's phony and disingenuous. Jesus warns against the hypocrisy of doing things for show.

In our faith journeys, everything we do should have a reason. Doing something so that other people see us doing it is exactly what Jesus warned people about. Lent is not about the fasting, moderation, or self-denial. Ash Wednesday is not about getting a little ashy cross on our foreheads.

Instead, Ash Wednesday and Lent are about getting ready for the glory of Easter. To get to Easter, we must prepare. We prepare by fasting. Fasting helps us take our eyes off the things of this world and focus on God. Moderation is always a good practice. During Lent, it is especially meaningful because it serves as a reminder of our commitment to God.

We can fast in a number of ways. The obvious one is to refrain from eating for some period of time. We can also fast from something specific. This is why we hear about people giving up something for Lent, like chocolate or coffee. We can fast from social media or television or video streaming.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 2023

6:00 PM

### Sermon:

"What's the Pretense?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

### Scripture:

Psalm 51:1-17

## SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

February 26, 2023

11:00 AM

### Sermon:

"Are We Worth It?"

Dr. Matthew Tennant

### Scripture:

Romans 5:6-11

### Anthem:

"Ave Verum Corpus" (W.A. Mozart)

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Herman Eaker

## SUNDAY SERVICE

Deacon: Michelle Proffitt

Ushers: Ian Pallini & Charlotte Bailey

In 2022, First United Church in Oak Park, IL, fasted from “whiteness,” meaning they didn’t sing any hymns composed by a white person during Lent. Although I don’t feel led to join that particular fast, reading about it made me think, and that’s the point.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday are not about the outward sign. They are not intended to be a banner to show others that we went to church on Ash Wednesday. They remind us of our mortality. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). We begin Lent with the reminder that our bodies are mortal. This reminder marks the beginning of the journey to the cross and the empty tomb.

The Lenten journey includes remembering, preparing, and thinking. Anything we do that brings to mind our mortality and dependence on God can enrich our experience. When we put effort into Lent, Easter becomes brighter and more beautiful than we ever imagined.

This year, our church will email a devotional each day of Lent. If you would like to receive the daily devotion and haven’t signed up yet, please let Linda know to add you to the list ([linda@universitybaptist.org](mailto:linda@universitybaptist.org) or 434-293-5106).

Peace,  
Matt



### Wednesday Night Dinners

The program will be our Ash Wednesday worship service beginning at 6:00. Our Wednesday night dinner on February 22 at 5:30 will be spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, and pie.

Afterwards, at 7:00, everyone who would like to sing can join Will Cooke and the Sanctuary Choir in the Choir/Lecture Suite.

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, February 22

9:00 Work Team  
10:00 PBJ Bible Study (Zoom)  
5:30 Dinner  
6:00 Ash Wednesday Worship  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY, February 24

6:30 Family Movie Night

### SATURDAY, February 25

1:30 Snow Tubing Day

### SUNDAY, February 26

8:30 ESOL Class  
8:30 Missions Council Meeting  
9:00 Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 Sunday Morning Bible Study  
11:00 Morning Worship  
12:15 Youth Group  
5:00 Jubilate Rehearsal

### MONDAY, February 27

10:30 Bible Reading Group (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, February 28

11:00 Development Team Meeting  
6:30 Prayer Shawl Group  
7:00 Voces Laetae Rehearsal

*For our most up-to-date calendar, [click here](#).*

### Prayer Requests

Barbara Newlon

Jack & Jo-Ann Averill

Alba & Pam Beasley

Joanna & Kelley Sivley on the passing of husband and father, Jim Sivley

Ed & Carolyn Lowry

Gail Ellen

Ron Kingston

# A WORD FROM VAL



We are in need of a second student/young adult to join our kitchen crew at UBC! The kitchen crew is responsible for cleaning the kitchen, dishes, and Fellowship Hall after our Wednesday night dinners and Bible study. They are also occasionally asked to assist after Sunday afternoon events. Students work from 6:00-8:00 each Wednesday night, pay is \$15 per hour, and they receive free dinner as well. Please direct anyone interested to contact me at [vfisk@universitybaptist.org](mailto:vfisk@universitybaptist.org).



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Join us in wishing some of our church family a Happy Birthday next week!

**Mar. 1:** Laura Centofante

**Mar. 2:** Suzanne Smith

**Mar. 3:** Martha Ballenger

**Mar. 5:** Tom Leland

## Thank You

I would like to thank all of my University Baptist members, and friends for all the kindness, cards, and caring text messages that I have received for the past several weeks. They have meant so much to me during this difficult time. My mom was the best, and she is now in God's House and I am sure she is dancing with my dad.

Thanks so much.

Love and Blessings,

Sally Chewning



## Pre-Bible Study Coffee Fellowship

Pre-Bible Study  
Coffee Fellowship  
meets on

the last Sunday of each month, courtesy of the New Life Class. Come by the main hallway outside of the Sanctuary any time after 9:00 am this Sunday to partake of beverages and goodies and some good conversation and fellowship.



## UBC Family Movie Night, Feb 24

At the request of our youngest UBCers, we will be having a UBC Family Movie Night! Join us on Friday, February 24, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a night of fun. We will provide popcorn and soda/drinks for everyone, and you are welcome to bring any other food or treats you would like to have. No need to hide the candy on your way into this movie! Gather for popcorn at 6:30, movie will start around 6:45. If you are willing to arrive early to help move couches/comfy seating from other parts of the church into the Fellowship Hall, please let Val know.

This is a wonderful evening to invite friends and neighbors to come join us, especially those friends and neighbors with young kids. They can come and join our young-at-heart for an all-ages night of fellowship.



The Kittie Colvin Trail Circle will be collecting items for the Alliance for Interfaith Ministries (AIM). AIM is requesting basic items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP covers only food. On your next shopping trip please pick up an extra item or two from the list below. Collection boxes will be located on the stage in the Fellowship Hall and in the first-floor lobby.

AIM is a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to help residents of Albemarle County and Charlottesville attain self-sufficiency and stability. Now celebrating their 40th year helping local residents navigate the "safety net" of social programs in our area and directly assisting through AIM programs on to screened clients, housing stability assistance, eviction prevention, utility assistance and disconnection prevention, and crisis assistance.

The requested items are:

- paper towels
- toilet paper
- hand soap
- dish soap
- hand sanitizer
- kitchen size trash bags
- bleach wipes
- small laundry soap
- all-purpose cleaner
- sponges
- deodorant
- shampoo
- conditioner
- bed linens, pillows, towels, and wash cloths are always in demand

We will be collecting until the end of February.

## Sunday Mornings

### Worship

Our Sunday morning worship service will begin at 11:00 am. We encourage everyone in the congregation to join us in whatever way you feel safe and comfortable at this time, whether in person or virtually. As always, you can listen by radio on WINA (1070 AM and 98.9 FM), or you can join us online for our live broadcast. To view the live video broadcast, visit our [Facebook page](#) or click [this link](#) to watch on YouTube.

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Connect with us

