

Aurora First United Methodist Church

February 2021

Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another

A Note from our Pastor Rev. Ryan Goode:

Don't give up!

Brace yourselves! The social media posts are coming - it's almost that time of year when people start sharing what they are giving up for lent. I read recently a survey on *Christianity Today* that revealed the most popular things its readers were were giving up for Lent. The list included things like social media, chocolate, alcohol, and chips. Have you started giving thought to something you might give up this year for the 40 day period of lent?

In the church Lent is observed as a period of 40 days where we journey with Jesus to the cross. This year the season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and ends the day before Easter on April 3rd (Sundays aren't included in the 40 day count). Lent is a time for reflection, preparation, and repentance as we look forward together to Easter. Fasting and giving things up has become a customary way to observe this season. Many people view giving something up for Lent as time to connect in a small way with the sacrifices Jesus made and to develop self-discipline. I'm all for giving up things for a time as an act of fasting. I encourage you to prayerfully consider if there is something you should give up this season.

I also want to challenge you to not just give up something up but to do something. Lent gives us opportunities to start something new and to develop new disciplines in our lives. Some things that you could start this season include reading a new devotional book, writing a thank you once a week to someone who has impacted your life, volunteering at a local organization, wake up earlier, give blood to the Red Cross, start a prayer journal, spend some time each day in silence. What could you start doing this season that will bring you closer to Jesus?

In the book of Psalms 145 we are told, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them." This season may we call on the Lord and invite him to come near to us. May we not only give up and make sacrifices this season but pursue new and beneficial disciplines so that we can be more like Jesus our Savior. As you give up and start new things may you do them not just because everyone else is but prayerfully commit them to the Lord as a time to draw near to Jesus

Pastor Ryan

February Calendar Events...

Special dates

February 2nd ... Groundhog Day
February 7th ... Boy Scout Sunday
February 14th ... Transfiguration Sunday
February 14th ... Valentine's Day
February 15th ... Presidents' Day
February 17th ... Ash Wednesday

Happy Birthday

February 3rd ... Oliver Moiso
February 5th Debbie Fehling
February 8th Steve Turner
February 13thJacque Whitaker
February 18th Lou Ann Martin
February 22nd Ellie Goode
February 23rd Ted Hamrick

Happy Anniversary

February 19th Tom & Charlotte DeVille

Self Help Meetings

AA meet Sundays @ 8 pm
NA meet Mondays @ Noon
Women of Courage meet Tuesdays @ 6pm
AA meet Tuesdays @ 8 pm
AA meet Wednesdays @ Noon
AA meet Fridays @ Noon
AA meet Saturdays @ 8 pm

Weekly Calendar

Pastor Office Hours Wednesdays 9:30 - Noon
Zoom Bible Study @ 2 pm A new series of study
Ryan will send you a reminder
link if you would like or you can connect at:
<https://us02ewb.zoom.us/j/889220482230>
Thursday Morning Worship - 9 a.m. on Facebook

Every Sunday...our Sunday Worship Service is available on Facebook IF YOU DO NOT have access to Facebook if you will e-mail janbuscher@yahoo.com she will send you a link every Sunday morning and you can watch the service using that link at your convenience.



February 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Lent...

The season of preparation and discipline, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the sacrificial life and ministry of Jesus leading to the cross and renews its commitment to costly Christian discipleship.

February Lectionary...

February 7th (*Epiphany 5*)
Isaiah 40: 21-31
Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

February 14th (*Transfiguration*)
2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalms 50; 1-6
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

February 17th (*Ash Wednesday*)
Isaiah 58: 1-12 (*or*)
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
Psalms: 51: 1-17
2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

February 21st (*1st Sunday of Lent*)
Genesis 9: 8-17
Psalms: 25: 1-10
1 Peter: 3 18-22
Mark 1: 9-15

February 28th (*2nd Sunday of Lent*)
Genesis 17: 15-16
Psalms: 22: 23-31
Romans 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38 (*or*)
Mark 9: 2-9

January Giving ...

The average weekly giving received January 2021 was \$1,607.50. (*Needed to meet budget \$1,387.73*) The window fund received \$550.00 thanks to memorial gifts honoring Bob Myer and Bob Ernsting, a \$150 gift from an AA Group and a generous \$2,000 donation from a member!

The organ fund received \$20. Upper Room collected \$3.00.

We donated \$75.00 to St. Vincent dePaul and \$100.00 to the Clearing House.

(Indiana Bischoff Julius C. Trimble has asked all Indiana Methodist Churches to continue to suspend in-person worship for the foreseeable future until the number of COVID cases improve. This recommendation was not made lightly, but with an abundance of caution, a commitment to our 3 General Rules: Do no harm, Do good, and Stay in love with God and to continue ministry in creative and innovative ways like we have been doing for the past many months.

*Therefore, we are UNABLE to gather in person and yet still have bills and obligations to pay. PLEASE remember our church by continuing to give your tithes and offerings by mailing or dropping them off on Wednesday mornings when Rev. Goode is in the office at **305 Third Street** so we can keep our bills paid.)*

Trustee report ...

Sanctuary Windows... the first set of three panels is complete and are installed and the next three panels have been removed, the cleaning process on them has started! The windows are looking good! The bulges are gone and they are so much brighter!!!! From a note from Rhonda (RLD Glass Art) to Roger: "we are on a roll now. The church panels are now forefront and will stay there as a priority job!" The first three gave a "clue" what she can expect with the others. "Some are in good shape and others are not so and really need surgery." Front entrance doors are complete!

Also... we are getting bids to replace two gas heaters, one in the choir room and one in the organ blower room. Both are old and unsafe to use.

Also... the radiators in the back of Fellowship Hall are being checked out. They have not been heating up so far this heating season and need to be addressed and fixed!

Not exactly "good" news especially financially BUT... projects that need to be addressed and fixed...

In our thoughts and prayers...

Let us share our concerns and blessings with the Lord...

Prayers for our Nation during the pandemic virus and the racial tensions.

Prayers for our President, our City, our County, our State and our Country's elected leaders, our World Leaders

Prayers for our Service men and women and their families, Jacob McCamon U.S. Army newly deployed overseas

Prayers for Healthcare workers; First Responders; Military Personnel; Chaplains;

Pharmacists; Grocery workers; Mail Carriers; Delivery Workers; Undertakers. Clergy and their churches; Teachers & Students; Bus Drivers

Prayers for those fighting for their lives; for those who have lost loved ones; for families; for individuals in financial distress...

Our Prayer list of friends and families... Linda Jackson, Mike & Kelley Davis, Tami & Rob Coombs, Ron Denney, Roger & Patty Rullman, Sharolyn Martin, Hudson Goode, Dan Hurley, Rev. Pam Wooden, John Hubbartt, Londalea Murray, Pam Dean, Donna Dean, Dave Giffin, Mike Crider, Abby David, J D Giffin, Peggy Benham, Ken Batchelor, Lisa Worthington, Dave Reidel, Danny & LuAnn Martin, Faye Martin, David Gutman, Nancy Ross, David Bowling, Rachel Schuler, Mike Nowacki, Bill Levell, Shawn Viltarda, Lisa Turner, Linda Van Cleef, Michale Renner, Keith Bangert, Gabe Arnsperger, Kathy Robinson, Josh Hensley, Meredith Carp, Jaxson Salisbury, Gary Hartman, Mike Ross, Jeremy Beard, Nielen Hansen, John Palmer, John Cox, Charles Ott, Angela Shaw, Tim Bennett, Nick Ullrich, Shirley Meyer, Danny Duncan

Those in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living... LaVerne Whitman, Martha Kaiser, Patricia Clark, Kevin Adams, Mary Ball, Opal LaFollette, Doris Spencer, Bob McDaniel, Shirley Meyer

Shut Ins: Jerry Stonebraker,

*******Sympathy to the families of...** Joe Hart, Bob Weber, Mike Hornbach, Brian Cassidy, Ann Davidson, Jeff Hutton, Elvin Ellison, Shirley Steiner, Paul Johnson, Darrell Combs, Greg Mills,

Local Missions: AA, NA, CASA, Heart House, St. Vincent de Paul, Clearinghouse, YES Home, Parent Cafes **United Methodist Missions:** Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission, UMCOR

Praises: John Hubbartt (continued good news after lung transplant);

***We are serious about prayer...** Some names have been on our prayer list for many, many months... If you have a concern that you would like us, as a church, to pray for **please** let us know. In an attempt to keep our prayer list current we are asking that you provide us the following information: YOUR NAME: (required); NAME OF THE ONE NEEDING PRAYER: (be sure you have their permission to make this concern known); NATURE OF REQUEST: (surgery, health concerns, etc. Pastor visit). You can make a note and place it in the offering plate, call the church with the information, mail a note, email the pastor (ryangoode1@gmail.com), Janet Hart (janbuschur@yahoo.com) or Janet Petty (jpetty@embarqmail.com)... maybe you would like a special prayer for yourself...

A Thank You note to us....

-A note from Jim thanking AFUMC members for the many pairs of *gently worn, used and new shoes* that were collected for the St. Mary's School project last month. FIFTEEN HUNDRED pairs of good shoes were collected! The collected shoes are used to support micro-enterprise vendors. THANKS to everyone who participated.



We say Thanks to

-Ryan and Jim for the love and care so willing given to us... coordinating our service each week... the special love and care as they prepare and do our on-line services each week....

-Special THANKS to our congregation and friends for their continued support financially...your generosity is greatly appreciated. Even though we are not able to worship in person our monthly bills must be paid.

-To our Trustees and Church officers for working through all the restrictions imposed by the Covid Pandemic...

