



March

2025



Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."



*Come
Fain
Us*



*Jesus,
the model of salt and light*

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells his followers, "You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world." Through his example, our Savior showed us what that means.

"The remarkable thing is that Jesus brought it all into reality in his own person," writes Bible scholar N.T. Wright in *Matthew for Everyone*. "He was the salt of the earth. He was the light of the world: set up on a hilltop, crucified for all the world to see, becoming a beacon of hope and new life for everybody, drawing people to worship his [F]ather, embodying the way of self-giving love which is the deepest [fulfillment] of the law and the prophets."

Looking At March Events

Ash Wednesday Service

We offer a time of devotion and meditation on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00-7:30. This worship opportunity will focus on our start of Lent. Our time will include quiet, scripture and meditation as we prepare for our Lenten Journey. The gathering will be in the sanctuary in the front pews on the pulpit side.

Our Study in March

The Final Sessions of our Study on the Doctrine of Hell will be on Tuesdays, 3:00-4:15, March 4, 11 and 18. In these last reflections we will focus on such questions as: "What is Purgatory in Catholic Theology?", "Is There a Way for Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel?", "What is Christian Universalism?". Our sessions will be held in the Choir Room.

Sundays in March

March 2 "In the Presence of My Enemies", Psalm 23: 1-6 Holy Communion

March 9 "Questions for Jesus", Luke 4: 1-15

March 16 "For Your Part", Matthew 5: 17-37

March 23 and 30: Rev. Ned Steele Preaching

MEN'S BREAKFAST, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8:00 AM

Our men are invited to attend the March Breakfast Gathering on Saturday, March 8 at 8:00 in Rogers Hall. After breakfast and some shared thoughts we will discuss an OUTING to the Toyota Plant in Princeton in late April or Early May.

Some Food For Thought

"Of one thing I am perfectly sure: God's story never ends with ashes."

—Elisabeth Elliot

* * *

"Run to the Lord and be comforted."

—Julian of Norwich

* * *

"The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it."

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

* * *

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

—Chinese proverb

* * *

"If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to it!"

—Jonathan Winters

Greetings from the Women of Faith:

As a church, we were able to help the Lighthouse Christian Academy in their collection of shoes project. The Academy collected 881 pounds of shoes. Thanks to everyone here who donated!

Thanks to all the volunteers and the Scouts who pitched in for the annual dinner and bazaar; your efforts made the event a big success.

Future activities of the Women of Faith planned are:
March 15—PJ movie night in Rogers Hall 6 p.m. with popcorn and drinks.
May 8—The Mother's Day dinner.

Theme is "**Famous Mothers**," so come dressed as a famous mother with a summary of who you are. Or just bring the story of the mother of a famous person.

Examples of Famous Mothers

Lincoln's mother

George Washington's mother (they didn't get along)

Pharoah's daughter, who raised Moses

Eleanor Roosevelt

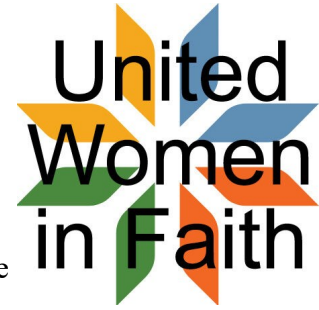
Dare I suggest: Bette Davis and Joan Crawford

Queen Victoria

Susannah Wesley

If a costume is too difficult being a story about a famous mother.

Tracy Davis



March's Gold Can Offering

The March 2025 Gold Can offering will go to support the City of Bloomington Animal Care & Control Animal Shelter's Emergency Medical Fund. The BACC website currently states that monetary donations directly to the Emergency Medical Fund are their Most Needed Donations.

The Bloomington Animal Shelter often encounters animals that require immediate medical attention, with many cases being critical & requiring potentially life-saving treatment. Without adequate funding, their capacity to provide this type of intensive treatment is extremely limited.

Routine medical care for adoptable animals -spay/neuter surgeries, rabies & other vaccinations, heartworm testing, microchipping, etc.-is supported through other funding sources.









The Emergency Medical Fund is dedicated solely to providing urgent, non-routine medical care in cases where potentially adoptable animals come in with traumatic injuries, serious but treatable illnesses like heartworms, malnutrition, advanced dental disease, ...etc. The goal is to restore these animals to good health whenever possible so that they can be put up for adoption & find their forever homes.



March 2025



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

February 2025							April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1								
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28		27	28	29	30			
2  9:30a Communion Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	3 6p Trustees 6:30p Scouts	4 3p March Study: The Doctrine of Hell 7p SPRT	5  7p Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p Choir Practice	6 	7	8 8a Men's Fellowship							
9 Daylight saving time starts at 2a.m.  9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School 10:45a UMW/UWF	10 6:30p Scouts	11 3p March Study: The Doctrine of Hell 6:30p Scout Pack Meeting	12 7:30p Choir Practice	13	14	15 6p Women's PJ Movie Night							
16 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	17 	18 3p March Study: The Doctrine of Hell	19 RBB Spring Break 7:30p Choir Practice	20 	21	22							
23 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	24 6:30p Scouts	25	26 7:30p Choir Practice	27	28	29 11a-5p Felton Family/Rogers Hall							
30 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	31 6:30p Scouts												

CELEBRATE!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Deanne Collins | 12 Ned Steele | 24 Cullen & Rachel McCarty |
| 2 Kaitlyn Fender | 12 Donetta Willibey | |
| 5 Rich Samuelson | 13 Debbie Witt | |
| 6 Cam Trampke | 20 Mia Harris | |
| 6 Bonnie White | 22 Barba Baer | |
| 8 Abby Pyle | 24 Rita Chambers | |
| 9 Harrison Pittsford | 28 Dewie Southern | |
| 12 Josie McCarty | 30 Ben Samuelson | |



Thank you so very much to the congregation of First Church for the generous gift presented to Elizabeth and I during the worship service on December 22nd.

We enjoy serving as one of the pastoral families of this congregation and appreciate your continued support and kindness to us.

Ned and Elizabeth Steele



Please remember that if you need to use the church facilities at times other than regularly scheduled meetings, you need to fill out a building use form and submit it to the church office. This goes for church groups, scouts, and outside groups as well. This is mandated by the church's Board of Trustees. Space is allocated on a first come first serve basis so the sooner the request is submitted the more likely the space will be available.

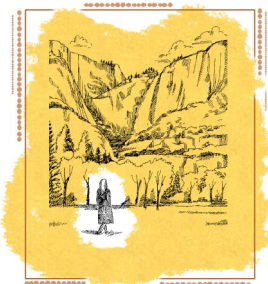
Special Dates

- Transfiguration Sunday, *March 2, 2025*
- Ash Wednesday, *March 5, 2025*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 7, 2025*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 9, 2025*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2025*

Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of _____."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones



Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)

Resting in Jesus



An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Lent



Fasting and Feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Trustees on The Move

The new year has been a challenge for trustee activity. The snow storm made it difficult to get to the new sign. The parking lot had to be plowed several times. The furnace made noises. The Rogers Hall thermostat made warmth debatable. All may seem discouraging. NOT SO! That is the glass half empty frame of mind.

Now for the glass half full perspective.

We have the new sign and it is great. Thank you, Darleen Robinson, for that donation. We had prompt snow care and we could pay for it. Thank you, Grenebriar, for your good work. Thank you, Church Family, for your faithful giving that keeps the church budget in working order. We have a fixed furnace and a programable thermostat so events will be comfortable to attend. Thank you, Durham Heating. Again, this maintenance project was paid for due to you, Church Family.

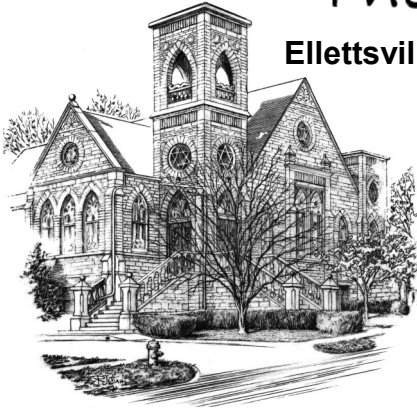
You may ask what is on the horizon. Whenever trustees talk about upcoming projects people sometimes say "Show me the money." Understood. Routine property care shows in several line items in the general budget. There are also dedicated funds where people can direct money. The piano and organ upkeep has a dedicated fund. The worship technology has a dedicated fund. The lift has a dedicated fund. The trustees have a fund used to meet needs as they come up (and they do). Due to your generous giving and some good planning the trustees are maintaining and improving that with which we are charged. However, that is not to say money is not a concern. Some projects underway are financed and some are not as stable as we would like.

Projects in the works for 2025. The new sign is the first and most visible project. The technology system in progress in the sanctuary includes hearing assist devices. They are also Bluetooth compatible for those with certain kinds of hearing aids. When the system is finished we will have better sound in the sanctuary and online. Cameras will be enhanced. The housing will be more aesthetic and protected so presets will not be vulnerable to accidental changes. When the weather breaks new windows will be installed throughout the church. Some of the clear, single pane windows are not in good repair and all of them are energy issues. The new ones will be better and more energy efficient which will help with heating and cooling costs. These were made possible by an anonymous donation. Now comes our area of concern. The Star of David windows are currently being repaired. This should have been done during RESTORE 2020 but was not. Hence, we do not have all of the money needed for this project. Due to lack of funds, the project may have to be prolonged since we are paying as we go. Window removal has been paid for, but we do not have enough to finish the job. In fact, we do not know how much it will finally be as problems will arise during the project. There are nine windows so it will not be cheap.

Our church family is much stronger than we give ourselves credit for being. We are hard worshipers, hard workers, and generous givers to those in need. We take responsibility for all that God has bestowed on us. Your trustees work to keep our church building and all its belongings in good repair. We do that with your help and prayers.

The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.



803 W. Temperance
P.O. Box 548
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Adult Sunday School	10:45am
Office Hours:	M, W, F 9am-12pm
Church Phone:	812-876-4792
Email:	efumchurch@blumarble.net
Webpage:	http://www.efumchurch.org

March 2025

If you are receiving this newsletter in error and wish to have your name removed from our distribution list, please notify the church office by e-mail, phone or postal mail.

