

**March
2019**

COMMUNICATOR



March 6

6:30am--8:30am--
you may drop by
for the imposition
of Ashes only
7 p m - - A s h
Wednesday Service

**Are you a Doer
or
Encourager?**

MEETINGS

**Staff Mtg.--Thurs.,
March 7, 11am**

**Finance Mtg.--Mon.,
March 11, 7pm**

**UMM--Sat., March 16,
8am**

**Effie Ford Cir.-Wed.,
March 20, 10am**

**Ad. Council-Thurs.
March 21, 7pm**

Pastor's Message...

This month brings us into the season of Lent. No I am not talking about the stuff that gathers in the bottom of your pants pocket or in the dryer filter. I am talking about the time in the liturgical calendar that starts 46 days before Easter with Ash Wednesday and is a 40 day season (not counting the Sundays) which is meant for the church to consider her unfaithfulness. For her members, you and I to contemplate how we have not loved God and obeyed his will as we should have. We reflect on our mortality—"from dust you came to dust you shall return." We reflect on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf. Bring on the ashes!

Lent is a necessary, beneficial time reflecting on the reality of our mortality in order that we are prepared to receive the life that God has for us in Christ, and to receive it to its full meaning. And so during the time in between the day that the church remembers Jesus' transfiguration and the joyful

festival day of Easter, we embark upon our forty day pilgrimage of Lent.

The word Lent comes from the old English word for "spring." As I once heard it put, Lent is "spring training" for the Christian as we are tutored in repentance, faith, and holy living. The season has been kept as a time for devotion and self-denial that comes forth from a faithful heart that dwells on God's Word and draws life and hope from it. Beginning in the 4th century the observance of Lent originally became connected with a forty day fast prior to Easter. This tradition continues today as some Christians give up meat during Lent or surrender a vice like chocolate, coffee, or television. While a fast of any kind is not necessary, it is certainly a helpful way to discipline the body and the mind upon the things of God and the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. Should you decide to fast in some way, it may be helpful to consider Jesus' words about fasting in his Sermon on the Mount, "And

when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward" (Mt 6:16).

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes. In the United Methodist Church, the pastor will make the sign of the cross on a participant's forehead with ash as a sign of purification and sorrow for sins.

The Sundays during the Lenten season 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.

May our Lord richly bless your contemplation on the penitential and contrite character of the Lenten season even while you reflect on God's great love for you through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Steven

General Conference Debrief Meeting

Kennesaw UMC will host a debrief meeting concerning the General Conference on Sunday, March 17th at 4pm. For those who would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 3pm.



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We're on the web!
www.countylineumc.org



**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
 Psalm 51: 10**

FROM THE CLUMC FINANCE COMMITTEE:

A change in the delivery method of the 2019 quarterly giving statements is coming. Information will be available in your March 10th Sunday bulletin.

FROM THE TRUSTEES:

As many may have heard, our custodian, Linda Lamine has fallen and broken her hip. She will be recovering for several weeks. The church is in need of volunteers to help care for our campus. Please contact Dave Wilkins, 404-975-8067, if you can help. Please be diligent in cleaning up (such as taking out trash, cleaning floors and checking bathrooms) after any meetings or events you may be involved in. Thank you to everyone for your help during this time.

FROM CHILDREN'S...

Wonderfully Made... McEachern UMC will host a faith and sexuality education program entitled Wonderfully Made for 5th & 6th graders and their parents/primary caregivers. For more information or to register go to www.mceachernumc.org/children.

Reminder: No Children's Church beginning Sunday, April 7. Sunday School is offered from 10-10:45am in the Ford Building.

Looking Ahead: Splish Splash Children's Event-- April 28th, 3-5pm--Chapel of Prayer, Acworth Beach. Joint event with Acworth UMC. Watch for more details!

MISSION TRIP: This year's trip to Red Bird Mission will be March 31st through April 6th. Cost is \$375 with half due March 15th and the balance due March 31st. Please let Celia Jernigan know if you are interested in going at 770-815-9161.



Our Staff...

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| Admin. Assist. | Sherry Wiman (ext. 101) |
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