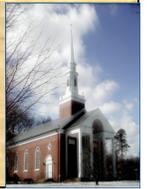




Ardmore United Methodist Church

Newsletter

February - 2015



A Word From the Pastor...

During Advent, we waited, preparing for God's incarnation. At Christmas, we sang with angels at the Joy of Jesus' birth. In Epiphany, we followed the Light of this Christ. Now, as Lent is soon upon us, the light of Epiphany will lead us to dust and desert. We'll wait again, this time for Resurrection and Hope.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter. Ash Wednesday is a sort of paradox. The Gospel reading warns against practicing our piety before others; but then we come up to have ashes put on our foreheads. What could be more public? But there seems to be something meaningful about outwardly wearing the inward reality of our own mortality. This is not to reward us for our faith, but to remind us of our failing.

Lent, then, marks our 40 day journey through the desert of dust, temptation and mortality. Lent's fasting, prayer, sacrificial giving and self-reflection invites us into a Holy space. By participating in this season, we boldly embrace our identity as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ever since God breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, we have been both; living beings and the dust to which we return. This same God brings forth living water from desert streams.

So, our journey begins in the proverbial desert. Following Christ, we leave our false oasis of instant gratification and indulgence of stuff.

We go to church on Ash Wednesday to be told that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We enter the desert, yes, but we trust that our destructive self-centeredness can be transformed into crucified living. This year, may our Ash Wednesday lead us into a holy and penitent Lent, transforming our lives into a journey of faith, hope and love.

-Pastor Tim

Lent and Easter Calendar



Ash Wednesday

February 18th

12:00 - 12:30 - Ardmore UMC

Ashes distribution and Holy Communion

7:30 p.m. - St. Luke UMC

Service of Word, Table & Ashes



Palm Sunday

March 29th

Distribution of Palms in 11:00 Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

7:30 - Service of Word and Table

Good Friday

April 3rd

12:00 noon - Ardmore UMC

Easter Sunday

April 5th

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching Series for Lent

This year, we will have a Lenten theme for worship. Our focus will be "the Full Armor of God", based upon the description the Apostle Paul gives us in the New Testament book of Ephesians. Each week the sermon will look at a different "piece" of armor. Paul expresses this idea to help Christians understand the spiritual battle we are engaged in. Christ equips every Christian with protection & love as we navigate life. Join us each Sunday in worship as we grow in faith together.



Lenten Offering...

Have you thought about a Lenten discipline for this year? Some people "give something up". Others add an activity or spiritual practice. Sometimes a particular area of focus needs prayer. This year, along with our preaching theme of the "Full Armor of God" we will consider for lent "40 Days of Love". Along with Sundays, Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday through Easter. During these 40 days, consider how you could express your love to others. Perhaps you could make calls, send cards and notes, make visits or express your caring love in other ways.

We are also enclosing a "Lenten Offering" envelope for your consideration. This specific offering will help us offset extra utility costs during the cold winter months. From December through March we are faced with extra heating costs, your extra-mile gift is most appreciated.

-With thanks, Pastor Tim



Easter Flowers

The beauty of our church is enriched each year by the presence of glorious Easter flowers. This year we will offer white lilies and assorted hydrangea. If you would like to participate by placing a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one on Easter Sunday, get your order in early by filling out the enclosed order form and returning it to the church office no later than March 29th.

In Memoriam

Hilton Levonian

Claire Ferguson

Tim Roll

Mary Verner

(Memorial Service on 3/1 at 2:00 - AUMC)

Alvina & Frank Nagle

(Memorial Service on 3/7 at 11:00 - AUMC)

Finance/Stewardship

We report that we closed 2014 on a sound financial footing, having met all of our obligations, including operating costs, connectional costs to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and mission/outreach gifts. Only because of each and every one of our loyal and generous members are we able to consistently do this year after year. THANK YOU once again!

The annual pledge campaign provides the foundation for our financial planning. In 2015 we have pledges totaling \$187,000 which will cover 58% of our 323,000 budget, the highest percentage we have ever attained. While this is good, we have shown ourselves, more importantly, to be a congregation that desires to invest in the mission of changing lives for Christ. As such, we do not tailor our program and our budget around what we believe we might be able to count on from our member's giving, but rather around a ministry that is bold and impactful - one that is not just about maintaining but rather transforming lives, communities, the world.

During this year, we know we can count on you to be apart of the vitality of this congregation that recognizes the worth in Christian education, music, programming, staffing and outreach. As people of faith, we can focus not on balancing the budget, but on seeing Jesus' work being done in our world. Thanks to each and every one of you for purpose-based giving in Jesus' name.

-The Finance/Stewardship Committee

Tellers Needed

In accordance with financial best practices, this is a two person job. If anyone would like to sign up to help Shirley, please add your name to the calendar posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, or call the office at 610-649-4382 and ask to have your name added to the schedule. You may sign up for as many Sundays as you wish. No prior experience necessary!

Rising Stars!!!



Two of our Youth, Emma Calhoun and Aiden Mastronardo, performed in Haverford Middle School's rendition of "High School Musical". The play ran for two evenings over the President's Day weekend. Both shows were sold out! Congratulations to Emma and Aiden!

Youth Group Activity...



On Feb. 1st, Jacob & Dana Kaufhold, Stacy Bartels and J.J. Estenor, representing AUMC's youth group, helped at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County with making and serving over 200 meals to the homeless. Our youth are truly out there making a difference!

Support Clare Sautter...

On May 19th through May 29th, Clare will embark on a mission trip to Thailand as a VIM (*Volunteers In Mission*), a delegation from the USA, to visit and support UM mission sites. Giving opportunities to support Clare's mission will be announced.

Looking Ahead...

February 22nd

1st Sunday of Lent - "Belt of Truth"

Immediately following worship, all are invited to a planning session and lunch with Partners for Sacred Places. This session will concentrate on short and long term ways to affirm and strengthen the ministry at AUMC. All are encouraged to participate. Meet in Wesley Room.

March 1st

2nd Sunday of Lent - "Breastplate of Righteousness"

11:00 a.m. - Holy Communion

2:00 p.m. - Mary Verner Memorial Service in Sanctuary.

March 7th

11:00 a.m. Frank & Alvina Nagle Memorial Service in Sanctuary.

March 8th

3rd Sunday of Lent - "Shoes of Peace"

Brenda Del Rossario to preach.

March 15th

4th Sunday of Lent - "Shield of Faith"

Recognition of Roseann Christian as Office Manager, upon her retirement - reception in the Parlor following worship.

March 22nd

5th Sunday of Lent - "Helmet of Salvation"

March 29th

Palm Sunday - 6th Sunday of Lent - "Sword of the Spirit"

Distribution of Palms in worship.