

Thoughts from Kim...

Lent

Lent is a time to learn to travel
Light, to clear the clutter
From our crowded lives and
Find a space, a desert.
Deserts are bleak: no creature
Comforts, only a vast expanse of
Stillness, sharpening awareness of
Ourselves and God.



Uncomfortable places, deserts.

Most of the time we're tempted to
Avoid them, finding good reason to
Live lives of ease; cushioned by
Noise from self-discovery,
Clutching at world's success
To stave off fear.
But if we dare to trust the silence
To strip away our false security,
God can begin to grow his wholeness in us,
Fill up our emptiness, destroy our fears,
Give us new vision, courage for the journey,
And make our desert blossom like a rose.

- Ann Lewin

continued...

Continued...

Welcome to this transformative season of Lent. You are cordially invited to spend the next 40 days in the wilderness getting to know yourself and God in a deeper and more meaningful way. Last week we talked about ways that you might structure your journey. Now it is time to begin – you and God. Take courage – you are not the first person to step into this wilderness, and the One who accompanies you knows the landscape very well.

Your church is here to journey with you through worship, the Lenten Thursday weekly gathering, recommended devotionals and the disciplines provided by Faith Formation and Missions with the Lenten Jars. If you want guidance or suggestions for your journey please speak with me. Despite how scary deserts can be, the promise of reduced fears, new vision, courage for the journey and being whole gives great hope. It's time to begin, one step at a time. Happy trails – and traveling mercies.

With love and prayers,
Kim

Lenten News

The first 20 copies of the UCC Lenten devotional *Take Nothing with You* were snapped up last Sunday – so we have ordered 20 more (suggested donation: \$ 5.00). You can get your copy in the sanctuary after worship and then in the social hall during fellowship, or in the church office during the week.

Parents and Grandparents – Each Sunday during Lent the service will begin with Pastor Kim reading a page out of a children's book that explains why we do what we do during Lent. Be listening for suggestions on how you can enrich your family's experience of this very special season.

What is Different?

We will use a slightly different Order of Worship on Sunday mornings during Lent. Can you spot the changes?



Young Voices: Stepping Out of the Wilderness is a 47-day devotion to walk you through Lent and concludes with the good news of Easter Sunday. All entries were written by UCC youth and young adults between the ages of 12 and 35. Link below to download.

<https://www.uccresources.com/products/young-voices-stepping-out-of-the-wilderness>

2019 Schedule of Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Activities at Bethany

Sunday Worship During Lent (Sundays at 10:30 am)

We will use a slightly different Order of Worship for Lent – see if you can spot the changes!

Weekly Lenten Gatherings - Thursdays Beginning March 14th at 6 pm in the Social Hall

Through a simple shared meal, worship and discussion, we will explore the challenging and life-giving topic of forgiveness. (ends April 11th)



Palm Sunday April 14th at 10:30 am

Through music and readings, we will journey in our hearts to Jerusalem. Worship will move us from shouts of Hosanna to the first steps of Holy Week. Also, the large cross will be set up in the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service. Next to the cross will be a table with paper, pens and push pins.

During Holy Week you are invited to take a moment to write down pain that you are experiencing (no names, please) and pin it to the cross. On Good Friday the pain will be removed from the cross and prayerfully spoken aloud.

Maundy Thursday April 18 at 6 pm in the Social Hall

“Maundy” often translates as “commandment” - and so we begin worship by remembering Jesus’ commandment to love and serve. We will share a simple meal and communion as we remember how Jesus reinterpreted elements of his meal with the disciples to become what we know as the Lord’s Supper.

After worship and communion, we will go to the sanctuary for a Service of Tenebrae. (Tenebrae often translated as “Shadows”). Seven candles will be lit – and at the conclusion of each of the seven readings that recounts Jesus’ arrest, mistreatment and betrayal, a candle will be extinguished to symbolize the encroaching darkness.

Good Friday April 19th at 7 pm in the Sanctuary

We will resume worship with a stark service that includes the reading of the Passion and time for prayer. The pain that has been pinned to the cross will be removed and prayerfully spoken aloud. We will leave the bare church, longing to return on Sunday to beauty and good news of resurrection!



Easter Sunday April 21st – Sunrise and 10:30 am

Those who want to glimpse the first rays of the New Day are welcome to join us outdoors for a sunrise service. We will continue to celebrate the resurrection throughout the morning with social events and a Festive Easter Service at 10:30 am.



Change of Date!

Bethany Buckeyes

We are moving from Friday, March 8th at 6 pm to **Saturday, March 9th at 5pm**. This is so you can enjoy the Boy Scouts'+ Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The cost is \$6 per person. Games and laughter to follow at 7pm!

Adult Faith Formation class on March 10th is cancelled. See you on March 17th!



March 10th

Prayer Shawl Ministry



We will meet Monday, **March 11th at 9:30 a.m.** as we continue to knit prayer shawls, pray for the recipients of the items we create; we pray for those who deliver our items; and we pray for **hope, healing and peace** throughout our world. *New knitters always welcome!*

LENTEN SOUP /SERVICE



Soup sign-up sheets will be in the social hall after Sunday's worship. We need volunteers for set-up, bread, soup and clean-up. Questions to Kathy Keenan. **THE FIRST THURSDAY LENTEN SOUP/SERVICE IS MARCH 14TH 6:00 PM.**

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of March, led by our master carpet installer Andy McVan and guided by our master carpet tile cutter Mike Cochran, the following group of Al Butler, John Seymour, Sue Jensen, Chuck Stadelman, Bart Clemente, John Mansfield and John Wachovec removed the old carpet in the teal room across from the gold room and installed 2' X 2' carpet tiles (or room #2 in architectural parlance). It was two very long days but the results are worth it. Stop by to take a look some time and get a feeling on how the Y is being upgraded. The room painting is complete (thanks to ninja painter John Mansfield) and the lighting has been retrofitted to LED. We are working our way through both floors and hope to have everything complete by the end of May.

We also retrofitted the lighting in the CE nursery/ Y office, gym boys & girls rest rooms and gym lunch area to LED lamps. Additional painting was also done in the Y classrooms.

Everyone is welcome to help us, and the more people we have the faster we will be done. If you are interested in helping, let the office know. It will help us to plan the work and possible do multiple rooms in a weekend.

Our next work dates are **Friday 15 March** and **Saturday 16 March**. The Friday start time is 6:00 PM and the Saturday start time is 9:00 AM and we go until the job is complete. An added incentive for that Saturday is we will be fed by Bethany Kitchen. And then nap. The Property Committee

The Music Ministry feels it has "BEAN" yet another successful annual Chili Cookoff! We made \$592.61, less our \$59.26 tithe, which netted a nice \$533.35 profit!! A sincere THANK YOU to all who supported this festive mission and a huge CONGRATULATIONS to returning 1st place winner Brad Bebout with his "Game Day Turkey Chili"; 2nd place winner Brad Roach with his "Mesquite Grilled Chicken Chili"; and to 3rd place winner Becky Wachovec with her "Buffalo Chicken Chili"!! See you next year!

The Makers' Time

A Craft Fellowship is a time for anyone of any hobby to come and have fellowship and make things. Quilters, knitters, crochetwork, card makers, weavers, whittlers, decorators, writers, etc. Anyone who wants to create in a space where others can collaborate, encourage, and fellowship with them.

Saturday mornings from 8a-12 on March 23, May 11, and July 13 are what we have booked for now. I am asking that everyone bring a snack to share, their preferred beverage (I will also bring some kind of punch), and whatever craft it is they desire to work on. If someone is interested in lessons or needs help with their project, I hope this will become a great opportunity for those things to happen! We have so many wonderful makers in our church community that I want to create a space for us to collaborate, encourage, and inspire each other.

Contact Meig Heyburn meig.heyburn@gmail.com



Celebration Corner!

Bethany UCC will be in the Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade with a Float! Many people can participate in this endeavor in a variety of ways – constructing the float, walking alongside the float, and/or handing out postcards with Bethany info and an invitation to our Open House in August. There will also be t-shirts available for purchase. Lynette Sheppard will be taking orders when we have the details.



NOISY OFFERING



Once again you are being asked to collect coins during Lent for the Noisy Offering. This year there are a few changes. Jars are available in the Sanctuary. In each jar will be 40 slips of paper (one for each day of Lent) that, it is hoped, will direct your mind and devotions to how very fortunate we are. The monies collected will benefit Bethany Kitchen, an important mission of Bethany UCC which offers a free meal on the third Saturday of each month, open to the entire community. Hot and cold beverages are offered and then a balanced meal including a salad and followed by a dessert. Most months, our guests are sent home with a special treat. A selection of bread, rolls, and baked goods are provided by local grocery stores. Each month, 60-80 people who are looking for a meal and fellowship avail themselves of this opportunity. This collaboration of the Mission and Faith Formation Committees seeks to bring added awareness to the act of Giving while contributing to a favorite outreach.

Pastor Kim's Schedule *(generally speaking)*

Sundays: Worship, fellowship and visitation

Mondays and Tuesdays: In the office

Wednesdays: Writing and study from home

Thursday: Visitation and community
presence/outreach

Friday and Saturday: Sabbath and personal
activities, attendance at church
activities as needed

Pastoral Emergencies: Whenever they occur

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sponsored by Scouts BSA Troop 160

Saturday March 9, 2019

5:00 – 7:00 PM at Bethany UCC

Adults: \$6 Kids 3 & under Free

Spaghetti dinner, Salad, Bread & Dessert, Coffee, Tea & Juice

Entertainment: Live JAZZ Band

Calendar: March 7th to March 17th

3/07 7:00p G. Scouts (SH)
3/08
3/09 5:00p B. Scout Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
5:00p Buckeyes



**Sunday
March 10, 2019**

**Nursery Available: 10:15a - 11:30 up to 2 yrs.
First Sunday in Lent**

9:15a NO FF Adult Class
9:30a Faith Formation for the Children
10:30a Worship
11:30a Fellowship/ *Congregational Conversation*
2:00p (G) Rsrvd.
3:00p (SH) Rsrvd.
6:00p YF

3/11 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00p B. Scouts (G)
3/12 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
11:00a Staff Meeting
6:00p Finance Meeting
6:30p G. Scouts (SH)
8:00p AA Meeting (L)
3/13 7:00p Bethany Band
7:00p Church Council
3/14 10:00a (SH) Rsrvd.
6:00p Lenten / Soup Service
7:30p Chancel Choir
3/15 6:00p Property Work Day
3/16 9:00a Property Work Day
11:30a Bethany Kitchen (YF helping)
2:00p (SH) Rsrvd.

Sunday ~ March 17, 2019

**Nursery Available: 10:15a - 11:30a up to 2 yrs.
Second Sunday in Lent**

9:15a Adult Class
9:30a Faith Formation for the Children
10:30a Worship
11:30a Fellowship Hour

Names of Sunday Volunteers are published AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED Sunday as a kindly reminder and early thank you!

If you are unable to volunteer the day you are scheduled, please *remember to...*
... Find someone to take your place ... *and then*
... Call the church office so we may make the necessary changes on our schedules

Volunteers for March 10th

Fellowship Hour Host: 100th Anniversary
Custodian: C. Stadelman/ B. Clemente
Greeters: M. Spring / L.&B. Read
Lay Reader: T. Hermann
Music: Chancel Choir
Nursery: K. Shaffer
Sound: J. Mancinelli
Ushers: J. Mancinelli, S. Gaskill, K. Booth,
J. Grazulis, B. Wachovec



Volunteers for March 17th

Fellowship Hour: B.&L. Read
Custodian: Sarah
Greeters: R.&M. Bowmaster / T. Jensen
Lay Reader: C. Hofmann
Music:
Nursery: A. Thompson
Sound: J. Wachovec
Ushers: J. Seymour, K. Fratz, M. Spring,
B. Pletzer, M. McDougal

**Please remember Bethany members who are unable to worship with us
Sunday mornings,**

Also, please pray for ...



Feb 10 The Esperanza Mission team, Karen, Marie, Jacob, Dale, Heather
Feb 17 The Williams Family, Laraine, Scott, Sharon, Terry, Linda, Richard, Melissa & Brent, Sandy, Corbin, Joleen & children, Debbie, Lars
Feb 24 John, Linda, Evelyn, Lisa, Family Promise families, Carolyn, Patricia, missing people, Maple
March 3 Bob Novak, Chuck, Carl, Kathy, Kevan, Karen, Lois, Caroline, Terry, Tom, Carolyn, Ted, Jim, Carol, Barbara, Collin, Linda, Pam, Debbie, Lars, Kevin, Esperanza trippers

Assisted Living/Homebound: Betty Caiola @ Briarwood, Joan Porter @ Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Doris Welch, Dick Holle @ Mulberry Gardens Memory Care, Marilyn Rowe and Phoebe Gero @ home

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Scripture ~ Sunday March 10, 2019

Luke 4: 1-13

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.
3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."
4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.' "
5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.
7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."
8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "
9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,
10 for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'
11 and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "
12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "
13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Getting To Know You - Congregational Conversations with Pastor Kim
Sunday February 10th at 11:30-12:15 pm in the Social Hall

Conversation Topic: My Experience of Communion

Please join Pastor Kim for a time of discussion related to how you experience communion, including what steps might make your experience more meaningful. Our goal is to give people an opportunity to reflect on their experience of communion (having administered communion in two different ways during the past two months) and provide clear, direct and timely feedback regarding what makes communion meaningful for people. Additional goals are to increase awareness of the diversity in our congregation through conversation, and have an opportunity to practice small group listening and sharing skills. Please help us achieve these goals!

Format

1. Following worship please proceed to the Social Hall, pick up your refreshments and settle at a table.
2. Once you are at your table, please select someone to take notes and be the spokesperson/timekeeper for the group (can be two different people).
3. Please reflect on the following questions - taking turns talking and listening, limiting your personal sharing to no more than 5 minutes:

Recalling the experience of receiving communion by intinction and of having communion brought to you/serving one another:

- a. What do these ways of receiving communion tell me about God/Jesus and my relationship with God/Jesus? About my relationship with other people?
 - b. What is the most important part of the communion experience for me?
 - c. Does any part of the experience leave me feeling uncomfortable?
 - d. Why did I pick red or white juice? If the color of the juice is important to you, why is it important?
 - e. Do I have a preference for communion in by intinction or communion in the pews? If you have a preference, why do you prefer one over the other?
4. After about 30 min of discussion around the tables Pastor Kim will shift the conversation and invite each representative from each table to share the highlights of what they discovered in their table conversation.
 5. All highlights/recommendations will be collected from each table by Pastor Kim and shared with our leadership team.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to give us **clear, direct and timely** feedback about Communion at Bethany!

