

The ECHO

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Volume 69 Issue 3

MARCH 2022

MARCH 2022 CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 2
7:00 Ash Wednesday Service

THURSDAY, March 3
11:30 Women's Fellowship
5:00 Women's Book Study

SUNDAY, March 6
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Hopper usher team
Confirmation class
Choir Practice following service

MONDAY, March 7
ECHO articles due to the office
4:30 Dining at Pegg's

TUESDAY, March 8
6:30 Church Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, March 9
7:00 Choir Practice

THURSDAY, March 10
5:00 Women's Book Study

SUNDAY, March 13
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Weckback usher team
Confirmation class
YOUTH meeting after service
Choir Practice Following Worship

TUESDAY, March 15
7 pm Men's Fellowship

WEDNESDAY, March 16
7:00 Choir Practice

THURSDAY, March 17
5 pm Women's Book Study

SUNDAY, March 20
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Rob Bohle usher team
Confirmation class
Choir Practice Following Service

MONDAY, March 21
4 pm Christian Education

THURSDAY, March 24
5 pm Women's Book Study

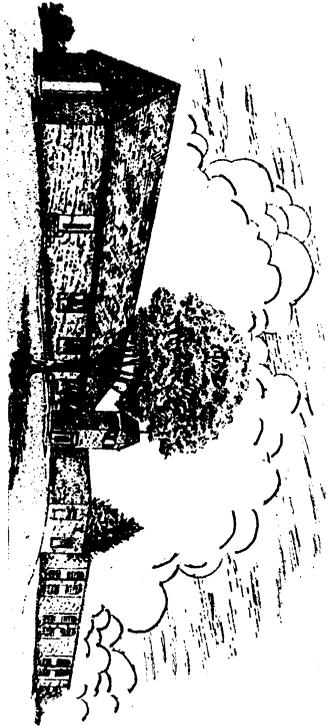
SUNDAY, March 27
10 am Worship & Sunday school
Wakeland usher team
Confirmation
Choir Practice after service



Make sure you move your clock
ahead on March 12th.

ST. MARTIN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
7890 Dittmer Ridge Road
Dittmer, MO 63023-1112
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL
MARCH 2022



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You may be familiar with the importance of the number 40 in the Bible. After all, it pops up in the Good Book 159 times, across both the Old and New Testaments. God flooded the earth for 40 days and nights. Moses fasted for 40 days, and Jesus wandered the wilderness for, yes, 40 days. Overall, it's a number associated with testing and the hardships one must endure to become more spiritually aware.

The Christian season of Lent also lasts for 40 days as we take a journey in space and in spirit toward Easter Sunday. The 40 days of Lent begin with Ash Wednesday which is March 2 this year.

I vividly remember that it was an Ash Wednesday service two years ago when we determined that it would not be advisable to have Holy Communion because of the onset of the pandemic. Last year we didn't even find it possible to observe Ash Wednesday.

This year please come to our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. We will hear God's word calling us to this season of introspection, devotion and renewal; we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, and we will experience the application of *ashes* which is the traditional symbol of repentance.

We will also have a **Good Friday service this year on April 15 at 7:00 pm.** We will celebrate the sacrifice Jesus made for us and the salvation he offered to us in a traditional Tenebrae Service (a service of light and shadow). The prayers and lessons on this night will center around the story of our salvation depicted by our beautiful and unique stained glass windows. This will also be the service of First Communion for our confirmation students: Lucas Meier, Logan Spicer and Jayden Green.

Here is hoping that this year our 40 days leading up to Easter will be 40 days of anticipation and hope for a long-awaited sense of normalcy (or even better!).

Pastor Scott



St. Martin's Women's Fellowship that was scheduled for February 3rd was canceled due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be March 3rd at 11:30 at the church. (This has been moved to the church from the scheduled meeting at Savannahs.) We will have corn beef and cabbage as our main dish. Please bring a side dish or dessert. We will play Bingo and have a short meeting afterwards. ALL women of the church are invited to attend.

Submitted by Tammy Birkenbach

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and letters, made phone calls, and said extra prayers for us. We greatly appreciate the love and support of our church family.

Ron and Barb Short



I just wanted to thank everyone for the love and support my family and I have received through yet another devastating loss. Your card, prayers, and phone calls have been greatly appreciated.

*Much Love,
Cyndi Cravens*

Who moves the stars
The light behind the night
The words beneath my words
The songs of my life

Who breathes the light
Into the breath of my being
As I'm held
In the arms of love.

By Bob Holmes
(Friend of Jack Nobles)

God,
You feel so far away
I reach out
Where are you?
I look up
Where have you gone?
I cry out
And hear only silence
In return

Maybe you have a prayer like this, too. I invite you to read all of Psalm 22. Listen to the laments, and the depths of the Psalmist's pain. Then read Psalms 23.

By Kelsey Petersen

The Power of Words

Read James 3:9-18

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalm 19:14

Words are powerful. Some words are a balm to your soul, while other words cut like a sharp knife. In an environment where God's Spirit does not abound, hurtful or destructive words often prevail.

Followers of Christ are called to reflect our faith in word and deed. Our teacher, Jesus, spoke words of comfort where there was loss, forgiveness where there was fault, solution where there was conflict, life where there was death, peace and hope where there was fear and anxiety. On several occasions Jesus spoke with compassion that changed lives forever.

Today, someone we know may need to hear words of hope, faith, and life. We can follow Jesus' example and use the power of words to share the good news.

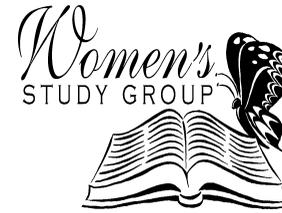
Today's Prayer

Fine-tune our words, O God,
so that others will know that
we are followers of Christ.

Thought for the Day

Today I will speak words of hope by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Devotional from The Upper Room
January 28, 2022

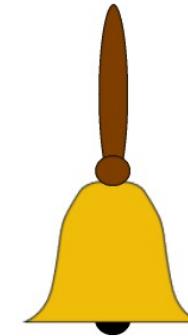


It's not too late to join in our women's book study that meets every Thursday at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are reading the book "Grown Up Girl-friends". We discuss how to build relationships with other Christian women through respect and acceptance. Most of all we learn how to build relationships using Jesus and his disciples as our example.

If you would like more information, please call the church office or contact Ruth Ann Meyer (314-435-6082).



The Choir is coming back into action just in time for the Lenten Season. We are always looking for new members. Rehearsals are most Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays following the service. We would love to have you join us. If you are interested, please come. If you would like more information, please call Dianne Lowerre (636-285-1236) or the Church Office.



Bell Choir is also returning. They will join in the worship service on March 27th. Practice times to be announced at a later date. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, please contact Ruth Ann Gillman (636-285-2753) or the Church Office.



Please come and be a part of Men's Fellowship. The March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, in the Conference Room at 7:00 pm.



In March, canned fruit and fruit drinks are requested donations. The Peace Pantry appreciates any and all donations throughout the year.



Kids in the NEWS

Austin Smith attends Missouri Baptist University. He received the President's Citation for a 4.0 GPA for the fall Semester.

Congratulations Austin!!

Megan Jones and **Brianna Colabianchi** attend Missouri State. They made the Fall Dean's List for undergraduates that earned at least a 3.50 GPA during the Fall Semester.

Congratulations Megan and Brianna!!

Anna Belle Wakeland and **Catherin Wakeland** both made the Honor Roll at Grandview for the first semester.

Congratulations Anna Belle and Catherin!!

Congratulations to **Julia Moder** and the Northwest High School Cheer Squad. They recently competed in the National Cheer Competition in Dallas, TX. They placed 3rd in the Nation. This is a huge accomplishment. Congratulations also to Coach Liz Green!!!

Northwest High School uses the Latin Cum Laude system to recognize their graduates.

Congratulations to **Joshua Zeilman** for being named as a recipient of Summa Cum Laude. This is the top level of recognition for students; they must have a 4.2 GPA or better, at least 30 on the ACT, participate in at least 3 extracurricular School Activities, and are enrolled in at least 4 AP/Dual Credit Honor Classes.

Terri, Kathy, and Donna

Congratulations also goes to **Hannah Colabianchi** for receiving the Archbishop May Sevice Award from Barat Academy. This award recognizes young people who have given extraordinary volunteer serve.

Council Update

The Church Council met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The council would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in following the COVID protocol by wearing masks and using social distancing while inside the church. The COVID protocol will be discussed again at the March meeting.

As things begin to return to "normal", future events are being discussed. Several of the events that have been held in the past are the community dinners. In order for those to take place again, a number of individuals in our congregation will need to hold a ServSafe or Food Handlers Certification. These are a must through the Jefferson County Health Department. Due to COVID and the absence of these events, all certificates on file in the church office have expired. We are also needed one or two kitchen managers.

The Jefferson County Health Department holds manager's classes once a month in either High Ridge or at Jefferson County Community College.

The Basic Sanitation Class for food handlers can be done online at www.responsibletraining.com. The steps and directions to take this online course are in the church office. If you are interested, please contact the office. These can be emailed to you or you can stop by and pick them up.



LOOK WHO IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY
80 + years

Eileen Crean	3/7
Judy Davis	3/9
Bill May	3/25
Ivan Horn	3/29

LOOK WHO HAS AN ANNIVERSARY
25 + years

Darrin & Dena Werner	3/8	25 years
Steve & Darlene Strupp	3/12	45 years
Ross & Jennifer Crum	3/23	54 years
Scott & Jennifer Terrell	3/30	26 years



Amelia Kay Vandaveer
Born: February 11, 2022
Parents: Jacob & Lindsey Vandaveer
Grandparents: Scott & Cheryl Vandaveer
Great Grandparents: Mike & Jan Vandaveer