

Sunday Worship Services 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM | Sunday School 10:00 AM

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From the Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Mills
While our secular lives are planned around the weekend or workdays, the times of summer vacation, or Monday holidays, the life of the church orbits around the



twin foci of Christmas and Easter. Although Easter comes at the same time every year (according to the lunar calendar, the first Sunday after the first full moon on the vernal equinox), the date of Easter on the Gregorian calendar shifts over a five-week period. All of that above is just a complicated way of saying that Easter, this year, is on April 17th, and the rest of the church's spring and summer calendar is determined by that date. If Easter is on April 17th, then Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2nd, less than three weeks from now.

Our church staff has been busy planning a deeply inspirational, coordinated series of Lenten and Easter worship experiences. Beginning with a self-guided meditation on Ash Wednesday through the powerful witness of music on Good Friday (April 15th), our worship and small group gatherings will focus on the idea that as we embrace the imperfections of life and faith, we will find that God's presence with us makes our life Good Enough.

We have witnessed another surge of coronavirus. We are still in the midst of this great disturbance from "the way we imagined" life to be. In many cases, dreams have been thwarted by pandemics through loss of life, health, and economic security. And then there's all the other hard stuff, unrelated to the pandemic, that just keeps rollin' along. We intend that our worship will be a salve for our frustrated selves, inviting us to embrace the imperfections of life and faith, knowing that we are never alone.

But first... before we begin the atoning season of Lent, we celebrate. We will host an introduction to Messy Church worship on Friday, February 25th. (If you want to know what Messy Church is, send an email to pastor@loveroad.org.) And before we fast, we feast at a Shrove (or Fat) Tuesday pancake dinner on March 1st.

I look forward to the journey with you.

Pastor Mills



Sermon Theme

We are to offer to God the first fruits of our flocks, the harvest, our work, ourselves.
Live sacrificially.

To prepare for the service

Please read:
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 5:1-11

PHOTO DIRECTORY

During Lent, the church will set up indoor and outdoor displays like the one featured in the above photo. We will take photos of individuals and families for our Church Directory. You will be invited to choose your favorite ladder display to use as a backdrop for your photoshoot. We will begin taking photos on Sundays before and after church between February 27 - April 10th. More details to come!



Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer to be a photographer, please contact the church office at 915-581-4444.

ASH WEDNESDAY

STOP

+

GO

SANCTUARY
March 2nd. 4 - 7 PM
Self Administering of the Ashes

What does the UMC say about fasting?



The Bible has much to say about fasting. Fasting is a sign of penitence practiced by individuals or whole people in the Old Testament. Jesus, as part of his spiritual preparation, went into the wilderness and fasted 40 days and 40 nights. He also commended fasting as an ongoing practice for his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount.

While fasting is often associated with Lent, Methodists have never limited fasting to Lent.

The General Rules commend "fasting or abstinence" as part of the ordinances of God upon which all Methodists are called to attend as they are able.

Fasting usually means eating no food for a period of time. Abstinence means refraining from particular kinds of food, such as meat. John Wesley fasted weekly, from Thursday at sundown until receiving communion on Sunday, as the Church of England expected its clergy to do. To Wesley, fasting or abstinence were ways to express sorrow for sin and penitence for overindulgence in eating and drinking. He commended fasting to all Methodists to allow more time for prayer, and he noted that fasting or abstinence was more meaningful when combined with giving to the poor.

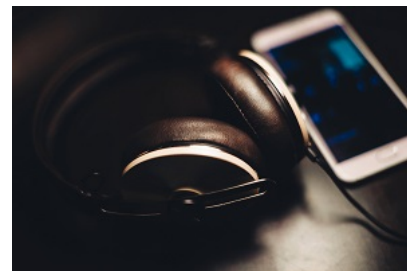
At the same time, he advised caution against extreme fasting and urged those in fragile health not to fast from food.

The United Methodist Church does not have official guidance on how individuals should observe fasting or abstinence. Many choose to fast from food, but fasting or abstinence can include restriction of activities such as television watching, shopping, or social networking. Some choose to give away clothing or possessions, give time by volunteering, or increase time spent in prayer. Be sure to check with your physician before attempting a total fast (no food, water only) for more than 24 hours.

Whenever or however we fast, United Methodists do so to reorient ourselves away from the compulsions and distractions of our lives to make more room in our lives for the love of God overflowing in love to every neighbor.

Read More at UMC.ORG

- **Beyond fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent**
- **Unplugging, Fasting and Ancient Practices**
- **Compass podcast: What is Lent about?**
- **Fasting: A 'New' Discipline for a New Year**
- **Fasting from media**
- **Fasting and Freedom: How to design a fast**



Unplugging, Fasting and Ancient Practices

Unplugging is an ancient practice. During the Christian season of Lent — the six-week period leading up to the Easter holiday — many people unplug from a variety of things. Some refrain from eating chocolate.

Others give up meat on Fridays. Still more might refrain from alcohol, binge-watching or cursing at other drivers in traffic. Giving something up, or refraining from doing something, is often referred to as "fasting." Continued on next page...

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Some refrain from eating chocolate.

For some people, fasting is both a constant reminder that we are preparing for Easter and also a small way to participate in the suffering of others. But fasting has merit and value that can be profound.

Fasting raises an awareness of presence. When we pull things out of our lives, we get a clearer sense of all that we still have in our lives. Refraining from binge-watching Netflix presents an opportunity to notice other, possibly more community-based, ways we find relaxation and comfort. We may find some of the clutter being removed from our minds and souls as we fast.

Fasting one day a month is even good for your health. Given our heavy Western diet, taking a day off here and there and letting our bodies rest seems wise. Given the increased energy it takes to produce meat, abstaining from eating meat once a week (or more) is an easy way to stand in solidarity with the poor and hungry. If you donate the money you save from a weekly or monthly fast (or abstinence from meat) to your local food bank or world hunger organization, you can and will make a significant difference in feeding the hungry. So, fasting is good for you as an individual, good for the world, and acts as a reminder of the suffering of Jesus and of others in the world.



So during the next days leading up to Easter, consider integrating some form of fasting into your daily life. When you do eat, really think about where your food comes from and feel gratitude for the farmers and other laborers who grow your food and deliver it to you. When you deny yourself something you really want, stop and take a moment to remember that there are people across the world, and right in your community, who are consistently and chronically hungry, and consider a donation of food or money to the food bank.

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Network technician

The church office is looking for a person with a computer and network skills and knowledge. We need someone who can set up email, initialize software, troubleshoot problems; who also has hardware knowledge and the ability to re-locate servers, install wifi boosters, run cable, move security monitors. Will need to be network savvy and able to interface with the ISP.

Social Media Leader

We are looking for a person to be part of the communication team who will take primary responsibility for social media interaction. An understanding of all social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter adding multiple weekly posts of the life of the church, and a knowledge of social media analytics is needed. The ability to help with live streaming would be useful.

Letters of interest can be sent to the Church Office 5000 Love Road, El Paso TX 79922; office@loveroad.org. For questions call (915) 581-4444

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday!

February 13 - February 19, 2022

Matthew Neessen, Feb 13th

Pam Dykes, Feb 14th

Craig Guest, Feb 14th

Steve Paddock, Feb 15th

Jaime Gardea, Feb 16th

Barbara Hargrove Legate, Feb 17th

John L. Mann, Feb 17th

Robert Jeffrey Pulver (17), Feb 17th

Jill Tidwell, Feb 19th

Linda Woodward, Feb 19th

Join Us



Friday, February 25 at 5:30 PM

Shrove Tuesday

March 1st

CHURCH-WIDE CELEBRATION DINNER

Fellowship Hall



Feb 13- Feb 19 Next Week at St. Mark's

Sunday, February 13

8:00 am Nursery (Ages 6 Weeks - 2 Yr)

9:00 am Kids Church

9:00 am Praise Worship Service

10:00 am NUDGE Youth Sunday School

10:00 am Agape Class

10:00 am Sunday School (Ages K - 6)

Monday, February 14

10:00 am Reader's Book Chat

School Closed Valentine Holiday

6:00 pm Traditional Service Choir Rehearsal

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 59

Tuesday, February 15

12:00 pm Needlework Group

6:00 pm Jazz Band Rehearsal

6:30 pm Grief Share

Wednesday, February 16

6:00 pm MOPS "Mothers of Preschoolers"

Thursday, February 17

8:30 am Elementary School Program Practice

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00 pm Weight Watchers

Friday, February 18

6:30 pm NA - Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday February 19

8:30 am Weight Watchers

To Learn about Shrove Tuesday,
See the YouTube Video

https://youtu.be/Q00_7_XCtJs

Please Pray for...



Tammie Fleming

By Patti Calhoun Can you please pray for my sister-in-law Tammie Fleming? She has brain cancer and will be starting chemo & radiation on February 7. Even with the treatments, she has just a 20% chance of recovery and a 25% chance of stroke during treatment. Tammie is from Foley, AL but will be receiving treatment at the UF College of Medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Her doctor is Dr. Michael Okun, and we ask for prayer for him and his team, as well as they guide Tammie through her treatments. We are faithful believers in the power of prayer and have left prayer requests all over the country for Tammie! Tammie is a Christian & she loves the Lord! Thank you so much for your prayers!

Melinda Roy(Kitchen Staff)

By Nancy Watters Please pray for Melinda Roy(Kitchen Staff) for the loss of her husband



<https://www.loveroad.org>



Justine Coleman, Pat Thomas, Brad Watson, Barbara Onahead, and Ann Johnson

Joann and Ed McElroy ask for prayer for Justine Coleman, who had a fall; for Pat Thomas who has Covid; for Brad Watson, who has Covid; and for Barbara Onahead and Ann Johnson.

Gerald Harmon

Marguerite Byers Ramey requests prayer for her stepfather, Gerald Harmon, who has his hands and heart full dealing with an elderly mother. Please pray for caregivers of those with dementia and Alzheimer's. Now his nineteen year-old grandson is coming to live with them after losing his brother, father and most recently his mother. Pray for them to be comforted. Thank you.

Joseph Lecher's Mother, Christine

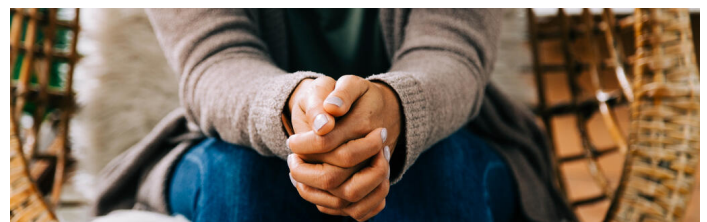
By Joseph Lecher Please pray for my mother Christine who is fighting COVID

Wayne's Mom

By Wayne and Patty May Please pray for Wayne's mom she broke her pelvis

Addie Bryant

Addie Bryant died in early January. Addy was a loyal and dynamic member of the Agape Class and served the church regularly by editing the bulletin. She was a fun person to be around. We will share with you any additional information we learn in the future. We need to pray particularly for her son who has limited ability to understand situations and he will likely be devastated by her death. One of the great characteristics about Addy was her total dedication to her son, Allan. Blessings, Al Lindstrom



How to Share Prayers:

Send your prayer requests to prayer group leader Ruth Lindstrom at ruthlindstrom@yahoo.com.

Call the church office at 915-581-4444 during office hours.4ee St. Mark's Chaplains tab on the website).

You can ask that your prayer requests be published to groups or kept private.



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for mailing information
on the printed version]*

St. Mark's 2021
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To receive our weekly email version,
go to loveroad.org
Click Messenger Our mailing address is:
5005 Love Rd. El Paso, TX, 79922
Phone: (915) 581-4444

St. Mark's United Methodist Church 5555
Loveroad, El Paso, TX 79922
(915) 581-4444 | email: admin@loveroad.org

St. Mark's Church Staff

Senior Pastor – Rev. Douglas Mills
to schedule an appointment with Dr. Mills

[Schedule Now!](#)

<http://meetme.so/WDouglasMillsmaster>

Business Office Manager - Laura Ronald

Cheri Bridges - Office Assistant

Traditional Music Director - Stephen Jackson

Children's Ministry Director - Bianca Milan Analla

Communications Director - Bill Wilkson

Praise Team Director - Lawrence Brown III

Facilities Superintendent - Bunnie Betancourt Head

Head Kitchen Chef - Miguel Guillen

St. Mark's School Principal - Linda Smith