

THE YOUTH BEACON

Where God's love is sizzlin' and you're called by name



GIFTS OF THE COMMUNITY: SERVING OTHERS

I feel as though I'm saying "I can't believe it's _____" with every new month, but seriously y'all, I cannot believe it's already February. We kicked off the new year with a flurry of retreats. First, joining Foothills Presbytery for their winter high school retreat ("A Brand New Thing") at Montreat, and returning to Montreat the following weekend for our 2024 Confirmation retreat. But don't worry - things aren't slowing down!

February is promised to be full of opportunities for God to do wondrous things in our midst. I am looking forward to celebrating Troop 2's 100th anniversary of scouting this Sunday, February 4th, witnessing our Youth lead us in worship across all three services February 11th, and our Youth Ski Trip in West Virginia February 16th-18th.

Want your Youth to receive this newsletter?
Send Mrs. Carrie their email address!

Last month I wrote about the "new things" God is doing. This month we start up our Middle School Girl's Bible Study on Friday afternoons led by Grace and Carrie. I hope many of you are able to join us for that time spent in fellowship with scripture. I've been looking for ways that scripture can continue to be a light to our path as a community, and for me personally. Our focus scripture for Youth Sunday is 1 Peter 4:8-11. In it, Peter talks about using our God-given gifts to serve one another in love. My prayer is that we continue to get to know ourselves deeper, recognizing our own gifts, but also the gifts of others. That in this season and all the times to come, we will be diverse in our abilities, and united in our mindset of service in the name of Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Rev. JD DeBevoise
Associate Pastor of Youth

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING

Sunday School

10 AM - 10:45 AM

Java & Jesus (HS only)

7 AM - 7:45 AM

*Eastside Chick-fil-A
Boiling Springs (JD will
text)*

WAF

5 PM - 6 PM (Dinner)
6 - 7 PM (Small Groups)

MS Girls' Bible Study Fridays (starts on 2/9)

3:30-4:30 PM

*Starbucks, Main &
Montview*

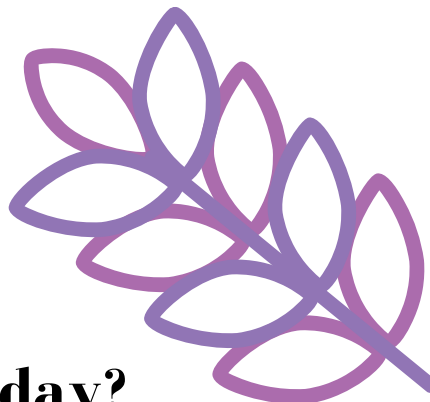
Sunday Night Youth

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (MS)
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (HS)

What is Lent?

Lent is the 40 day period of time leading up to Easter and the celebration of the Resurrected Lord.

Frederick Buechner helpfully writes: "In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves."



So....What is Ash Wednesday?

On Ash Wednesday we acknowledge the beginning of the season of Lent by spending time reflecting on our mortality. When we receive ashes (often on our foreheads, but sometimes on our hands) we are reminded, "from dust you came and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). As we begin to journey through Lent, just as Jesus journeyed to the cross, we are reminded that God is our creator who loves us in life and in death.



To Give Up or Take On?

It has become a common practice during Lent to either give something up (diet coke...cough Carrie cough, social media, video games, etc.) or to add something new to our routine (writing poetry, reading, taking a daily walk, making music). You don't have to do this and if you choose to you don't have to be perfect!

The purpose is to be intentional and grow in your awareness of self, others, and God. **Let us know if you're giving something up or taking something on so we can support you during Lent!**

LENT SCHEDULE

- February 14th, 2024
 - Ash Wednesday Service
 - after WAF meal
- February 21st
 - 1st Sunday of Lent
- February 28th
 - 2nd Sunday of Lent
- March 3rd
 - 3rd Sunday of Lent
- March 10th
 - 4th Sunday of Lent
- March 17th
 - 5th Sunday of Lent
- March 24th
 - Palm Sunday
- March 31st
 - EASTER SUNDAY

LITURGICAL COLORS

Do you know that all seasons in the church have a designated color?

Advent is blue/purple, Christmas and Easter are white, Pentecost is red, and the "ordinary times" are green.

During Lent we use purple in our vestments, clergy stoles, and more! **This is just a Croc, but it is liturgically appropriate for Lent!**



Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities

Thursday Night Meal Ministry

(Youth serve 1st Thursday)

February 1st

March 7th

WAF Dishwashers

([sign up here!](#))

WAF Children's Program Volunteers

Have ideas for mission projects? Let JD, Grace, or Carrie know!



“FOR WHEN I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME... TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.”
MATTHEW 25: 35 - 40

High School Summer Mission Trip

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

[Click here to sign up!](#)

**June
9th-15th**



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Meal Ministry @ FPC 4-6 PM 		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Boy Scout Sunday Confirmation, 10-11am Youth Group		Java & Jesus 7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick-fil-A)	WAF Small Groups in MS & HS rooms		Middle School Girl's Bible Study, 3:30pm (Starbucks, Main & Montview)	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Youth Sunday No Youth Group		Java & Jesus 7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick-fil-A)	 WAF Ash Wednesday Service		Ski Retreat @ WinterPlace, WV  No MS Girls Bible Study 	
1st Sunday of Lent	18	19	20	21	22	23
Ski Retreat @ WinterPlace No Youth Group		Java & Jesus 7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick-fil-A)	WAF Small Groups in MS & HS rooms		Middle School Girl's Bible Study, 3:30pm (Starbucks, Main & Montview)	
2nd Sunday of Lent	25	26	27	28	29	1
Confirmation, 10-11AM Youth Group		Java & Jesus 7-7:45 AM Eastside (Chick-fil-A) Boiling Springs (Chick-fil-A)	WAF Small Groups in MS & HS rooms		Middle School Girl's Bible Study, 3:30pm (Starbucks, Main & Montview)	2

Important March dates:

Confirmation classes, March 3rd, March 10th, 10-11am
 March 7, Neighborhood Meal Ministry Youth Service Night
 Palm Sunday, March 24th
 Easter Sunday, March 31st

DON'T FORGET