

THE BROADCASTER

January 24, 2024

Pastor's Piece

Lent begins February 14 this year. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts until the Saturday before Easter. It is 46 days, but the six Sundays are not included in Lent, so it makes 40 days.

Lent is a time for prayer and reflection. Lent is a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. Especially through prayer, we draw closer in relationship with God.

For this purpose, I hope we can pray together this Lent. Sometimes praying can be difficult and uncomfortable. However, as we pray together, we get to experience an amazing work of resurrection victory in our personal lives, in our families, in our children, and in our church.

The title of the book, "Drawing the Circle of Prayer," refers to the British evangelist Rodney Gypsy Smith, who preached the gospel in England and the United States in the late 19th and mid-20th centuries and caused a revival of God's word, saying that God is blessing the hearts of believers. In order to experience God's revival, where lives are changed, families are changed, churches are changed, and the world is changed by His touch, before making any human effort, first go home, go to a room, draw a circle in the room, go inside that circle, and kneel. The title comes from a saying that we must pray earnestly to God for revival.

This Lent, whether your prayer meeting is in your room, at school or at workplace, or wherever you are, draw your own "circle of prayer" and enter into it so that a revival of God's word can occur in your life, your family, your children, your church, your community, and the world. I hope we can pray earnestly together for this.

During this Lent, we hope you will pray together with the joint prayer topics below.

1. For the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers during Lent.
2. So that I can know and experience God more and more.
3. So that families, especially children, can know and experience God more.
4. May a revival of God's word occur in our church.
5. For the revival of the area where I live, the United States, and the nations.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ji



OUR PRAYERS FOR

Those Within the Church

Alex Barbour, Don Bennett, Dale Guthrie, Tammy Taylor, Ed Verlin

Our Leaders

Law Enforcement Officers in our community and in the nation, the persecuted Christians around the world.
God's Guidance and Strength for President Biden, Our Troops and their Families

Our Military

- | | |
|---|---|
| † Michael Barbett – Darryl & Val Wall's son-in-law | † Erik Nott & family – Doug & Gay Vannaman's son-in-law |
| † CPL Cody Blair – Judy Lann's grandson | † MSGT Leah Oakleaf – Walt & Janet Southards' granddaughter |
| † Dennis Burns Jr (DJ) – Dennis Burns Sr & Lisa Soetebier's son | † SGT Steven Pearce – Walt & Janet Southards' nephew |
| † Kristopher Dewitt – Mary Stout's grandson | † Erik Ralsten |
| † Chance Greenhoff – Army | † CPL Bethany Reeves McDoniel |
| † James Harris (MP) – Bill & Joy Page's grandson | † AIC Bradley Southards – Walt & Janet Southards' grandson |
| † Austin Kroeger | † Joey Thiessen |
| † CPL Jay McDoniel | |

Thank You To...

The Carter family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for Jason and Verna the past few weeks. Both are recovering and doing well.



The Sanctuary for Lent 2024 contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. This annual favorite helps readers faithfully journey through Lent as they prepare to experience the joy of the Resurrection. Along with being a great congregational resource, it is an excellent gift for family, friends, and those your congregation connects with through outreach. Copies are available outside the sanctuary.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Karen Williams | 2 Steve Livengood | 2 Madeline Cade |
| 4 Tom Bartel | 4 Janace Seyb | 5 Katie Youngers |
| 5 Saylor Thornton | 6 Landen Taylor | 7 Mike McCormick |
| 9 Marsha Holl | 9 Jason Barbour | 9 Susan Saylor |
| 9 Sarah Ingle | 10 Jonathan Stiglitz | 10 Susan Scribner |
| 10 Judy Wilson | 10 Scarlett Stockdale | 11 Darrell Henderson |
| 15 Jenna Edwards | 17 Jerry Browning | 18 Amy Patrick Stamm |
| 19 Judie Myers | 19 Dorene Ruth | 19 Christian Kennedy |
| 21 Verna Carter | 21 Wendy Koziol | 23 Chanda Brownlee |
| 23 Joey Spratt | 24 Brad Diehl | 24 Jett Stockdale |
| 25 Roger Williams | 26 Paul Ward | 26 Reid McCallum |
| 27 Noble Callaway | 27 Judy Lann | 27 Katie Bright |
| 28 Mike Spratt | 28 Lindsey Buell | 28 Ji Seok Ju |
| 28 Brian Meyer | 29 Michelle Holle | |



FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

9 Ron & Terri McKown

18 Don & Kathy Pearson



WEEKLY:

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
Traditional Worship 9:00a	Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		JOY Group 9:30a FS		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC
Sunday School 10:00a	Progressive Class 7:00p FS		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		
Contemporary Worship 11:00a			Chancel Choir 5:00p SAN		
			WOW ZONE! 6:00p WCC/Basement		
			UMYF 6:00p FH/14B/15B		

SPECIAL:

Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever Friday, February 9 11:00 a.m. / WCC	Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 13 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. / WCC	Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 14 6:00 p.m. / SAN
Lunch & Learn Thursday, February 15	Bridget's Cradle Workday Sunday, February 18	Office Closed Monday, February 19
	Book Club Wednesday, February 28 6:00 p.m. / FS	

SCOUTING GROUPS:

Adventure Crew First Mondays 6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 40021 First & Third Mondays 6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 40316 First & Third Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 40870 Mondays 6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 494 Mondays 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pack 494 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

fumcvc's GOINGS ON...

We have pecan pieces! The pecan pieces that were to arrive before Christmas arrived this week! Bags are \$13 each. To purchase your bag, just contact the office.

2023 Giving Statements will be available upon request. Please contact the office if you would like yours printed.

Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever will meet **Friday, February 9** at 11:00 a.m. in the WCC. Please bring a craft to work on and a salad to share.

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be **Wednesday, February 14** at 6:00 p.m.

Bridget's Cradle Workday – **Sunday, February 18** – 12:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. We will take the church van. Lunch out at Wendy's in Park City and then a work afternoon at the Bridget's Cradle headquarters in Kechi! Basic hand sewing skills needed. Snacks will be provided! Interested? Please let the church office know!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.

February's Book Club selection is *That's Why I Hate Green Beans* by Lincee Ray. If there is one thing Lincee Ray has learned over the years, it's that the majority of women on the planet struggle with insecurities. Our skinny jeans mock us. Our just-trying-to-help mothers are just driving us crazy. Our social media feeds taunt us with everyone else's picture-perfect lives. It's enough to send you on a gummy-bear bender while binge-watching Friends reruns and not showering for a week. Lincee knows. She's been there. Right there, in fact. Gummy bears and all. For every woman who's ever wondered if she's unlovable, uninteresting, or unattractive, Lincee offers her particular brand of hilarious (and hard-hitting) self-reflection. Like a true friend, she shows us that the fastest way to happiness is to embrace ourselves in all our imperfection, trust that God knew what he was doing when he made us, and maybe go buy a new tube of mascara. Walk alongside Lincee as she discovers that her identity is not found in her job, her relationship status, her bank account, or her social circle. It's found in Christ. We will meet **Wednesday, February 28** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The church has a limited number of books available for \$1.00.

Ways to Give

February's giving for Open Door and the Valley Center Food Pantry is canned meat. **Donations can be brought to the middle foyer and put in the storage cabinet on the south wall.**

Welcome to Our World...

HENRY ARTHUR MCFARLAND

BORN DECEMBER 5, 2023

GREAT-GRANDPARENTS ROY AND LINDA MCFARLAND

Lainey Kate Garrigree

BORN DECEMBER 29, 2023

GREAT-GRANDPARENTS ROY AND LINDA MCFARLAND

Callahan Levi Nicholson

BORN DECEMBER 30, 2023

PARENTS CLAYTON AND KENNEDY (STAMM) NICHOLSON

GRANDPARENTS MATT STAMM AND AMY PATRICK-STAMM AND UNCLE KYLE STAMM

"FOR THIS CHILD I PRAYED AND THE LORD HAS GRANTED THE DESIRES OF MY HEART."

1 SAMUEL 1:27



Welcome to
Kelli ARROWSMITH AND
Patty HEIDEBRECHT!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S

66TH ANNUAL
PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

5:00P-7:00P

560 N PARK AVE, VALLEY CENTER

Adults (13 years and up) \$7

Children (5 years to 12 years) \$5

Children (4 years and younger) FREE

Sponsored by Homebuilders
and New Life Sunday School Classes



forty days of SERVING, RENEWING, GROWING, & PRAYING

February 14	SERVING	Deliver pantry items to a local food pantry
February 15	RENEWING	Burn a candle in the dark and think about the light of Christ in your life
February 16	GROWING	Read one book of the Bible
February 17	PRAYING	Pray for those who are sick
February 18	SERVING	Deliver treats or write a note to a first responder
February 19	RENEWING	Clear your mind and sit quietly for ten minutes listening for God.
February 20	GROWING	Decide not to complain for the entire day.
February 21	PRAYING	Pray for those who have suffered loss.
February 22	SERVING	Deliver treats to a friend/neighbor.
February 23	RENEWING	Listen to a worship song and think about what it means to you.
February 24	GROWING	Think of three positive things about a person who frustrates you.
February 25	PRAYING	Pray for the first responders and their families.
February 26	SERVING	Send a note to someone special.
February 27	RENEWING	Take a walk.
February 28	GROWING	Research a question you have about God.
February 29	PRAYING	Pray for those who are sad or lonely.
March 1	SERVING	Call or write an elderly person.
March 2	RENEWING	Sit quietly repeating "Be still and know that He is God" from Psalm.
March 3	GROWING	Memorize Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."
March 4	PRAYING	Pray for those who do not know God.
March 5	SERVING	Volunteer your time or send money to a local charity.
March 6	RENEWING	Watch a Christian movie.
March 7	GROWING	Memorize Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
March 8	PRAYING	Pray for our church and church family.
March 9	SERVING	Genuinely compliment someone who isn't expecting it.
March 10	RENEWING	Read Psalm 23.
March 11	GROWING	Write down Philippians 4:8 and put it on your refrigerator and read it several times today.
March 12	PRAYING	Pray for victims of violence.
March 13	SERVING	Sit quietly outside for ten minutes and enjoy God's creation.
March 14	RENEWING	Breathing prayer (2 Corinthians 12:9) – Inhale: "Be still" Exhale: "is enough for me" – repeat.
March 15	GROWING	Talk with another believer about where you need to grow in your faith.
March 16	PRAYING	Pray for those who are hungry or don't have shelter.
March 17	SERVING	Tip extra/leave thank you note for waiter/delivery person.
March 18	RENEWING	Send a note of encouragement to someone who is suffering, sad, or lonely.
March 19	GROWING	Memorize Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."
March 20	PRAYING	Pray for veterans and those currently serving in armed forces.
March 21	SERVING	Ask someone, "How can I help?" and then help them!
March 22	RENEWING	Breathing Prayer (Philippians 4:7) – Inhale: "Peace of Christ" Exhale: "guard my heart and mind."
March 23	GROWING	Practice thirty-second elevator speech as to why you are a Christian.
March 24	PRAYING	Pray for our community, our country, and our world.

Lenten Studies

Blessed Are the Chosen is an eight-lesson interactive Bible study for individuals or small groups based on season 2 of the groundbreaking television show, *The Chosen*. This study works in tandem with each episode of the show, bringing both the Old and New Testaments to life in an approachable and conversational way. **This study will meet Mondays beginning February 12 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Phoebe McCormick is the leader.**

VINCENT VAN GOGH AND THE BEAUTY OF LENT – Vincent van Gogh devoted his life to light. The light of creation, the light of painting, the light of God’s grace – and the light in humanity, mind, body, and soul. The son of a Christian pastor, Vincent fervently set out to be a preacher and missionary himself, but his ministry eventually took the form of nearly 900 paintings shimmering with dynamism, with passion, and above all, with light. The word “Lent” refers to the “lengthening” light, the growing days that, in time, will coax the sunflowers to open, the wheat fields to rise again, and the irises to bloom. What better companion on this forty-day pilgrimage, then, than Vincent van Gogh, this apostle of light? In this Lenten devotional, the words of Scripture and the paintings and letters of Vincent van Gogh will be our guides. Each week, biblical texts and Van Gogh’s work throw light on each other, pointing toward simple, powerful practices you can try yourself. Week by week, we’ll travel this Lenten journey together toward the light of Easter morning – with Vincent van Gogh as our guide. **This study will be presented as part of the Progressive Class that meets Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The cost of this study is \$4.00 and it will begin Monday, February 19. Amy Patrick Stamm is the leader.**

Pastor Ji would like to invite you to join him for a Tea Talk Lenten Study. The study is based on “Draw the Circle by: Taking the 40 day Prayer Challenge” by Mark Batterson. Have your prayers become stagnant? Do you long to see God move in fresh ways? Are you ready to move to new places in your walk with God? If so, it's time to take the 40-day prayer challenge...In this five-session video study, bestselling author and pastor Mark Batterson reveals how taking up this prayer challenge will not only change the way you pray today but also *dramatically impact the rest of your life*. This study will help you:

- **Draw** your prayer circle around the things in your life where you want to see God's work.
- **Form** a broader prayer circle with other believers in Christ.
- **Challenge** yourself to persistently depend on God.
- **Witness** the miraculous results in your life, your church, your community, and your world that only God can bring.

While this challenge won't be easy, and you will certainly experience setbacks along the way, as you *pray through* you can be assured that God will *come through* for you in new and exciting ways. Miracles that happen in your life decades from now will trace their origin back to this season of prayer, and breakthroughs that occur will become generational blessings that will live on long after your time on earth is over. **The class will begin Wednesday, February 21 and will meet every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost of the workbook is \$10. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.**

THANK YOU FROM ROODY

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to each one of you, but especially to the incredible "Big 4" – Olivia, Anne, Sheri, and Martha.

Your unwavering support and selfless dedication during my recent move have truly touched my heart and made a significant impact on my life.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the blessings I have received from the Sunday School class and beyond.

Your generosity knows no bounds, as I have been gifted not only with your time and effort but also with furniture, money, and all the essentials needed to start this new chapter of my life.

It's astonishing to see how the news of my move reached the ears of others who were eager to contribute and help – a testament to the strong sense of community we share.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to each member of the Sunday School class and everyone who has played a part in making this transition so smooth and joyous.

I also want to express my gratitude to all of you who took that risk to let me stay into your house as you only knew me as Bruce's friend from Haiti. Not only were you gracious hosts, but your entire family also embraced my presence, making my stay enjoyable. I have gained valuable insights into American culture, indulged in diverse dishes, now started to grasp the basics of football. Something that has really helped me in tremendous ways. I am truly thankful for the enriching experience you have provided me.

Pastor Ji and his family, I am especially grateful for the blessing prayer the Pastor offered for my new apartment. Your prayers have undoubtedly set the foundation for a blessed and harmonious home.

To the "Big 4" – Olivia, Anne, Sheri, and Martha – your tireless efforts did not go unnoticed.

I hope you are now enjoying a well-deserved rest after putting in so much time, energy and even sleepless nights thinking about how to make this move possible and successful.

Your kindness has left an indelible mark on my heart, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have friends (Mothers in Tony's voice) like you.

I am filled with joy and gratitude. I never imagined that a simple move could turn into such a remarkable experience, thanks to the love and care of my church family.

As I walk through my home now, I am reminded not only of the tangible objects that fill the spaces but also of the intangible spirit of compassion and unity that has breathed life into these walls.

I want to wish everyone a blessed and prosperous Year. May it be filled with joy, love, and continued fellowship.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a source of strength and kindness during this significant moment in my life.

FUMCVC FINANCIAL REPORT

Report of Financials for the Valley Center First United Methodist Church through the end of December, 2023.

Our church budget for the 2023 calendar year was roughly \$452,000.00. The budget was made up to pay for staff salaries and benefits, church missions, church conference giving, utility costs, equipment, supplies, repairs and maintenance costs.

The revenue to pay those costs was made up of our pledged giving contributions and our faith giving contributions. Our pledged giving made up 72% (or \$324,400.00) and our faith giving made up the remaining 28% (or about \$127,600.00) of the total budgeted contributions.

At the end of December 2023, our projected expenses for the church were \$452,049.00. Our actual expenses through the end of December were \$398,954.00. Through the end of December 2023, the church spent \$53,095.00 less than we had projected or thought our expenses would be.

At the end of December 2023, our pledged giving contributions were projected to be about \$324,420.00. Our actual pledged giving was \$320,641.00, or \$3,779.00 behind our projections.

At the end of December 2023, our faith giving contributions were projected to be about \$127,629.00. Our actual faith giving was \$94,214.00, or \$33,415.00 less than our projections.

Overall, our Total Giving for the year was \$37,194.00 less than projected, but our Expenses were also less than projected by \$53,095.00. Therefore, the Church ended the year on the positive side of what we began the 2023 year with by \$15,901.00. Thank you Church members!

The Church's Finance Committee plans to keep the congregation updated on our finances through-out the year to make sure each of you is aware of where the church's finances stand. If you have questions regarding the church's finances, please feel free to talk to any member of the Finance Committee or Pastor Ji.

Thank you for your continued support of the Valley Center First United Methodist Church.

Larry Clark – Financial Committee Chairperson

Brad Edwards, Gregg Howell, Cheryl Maris, Niki Miles, Connie Richardson, Josh Waite, Olivia Wilbur



The Broadcaster
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