

THE BROADCASTER

January 27, 2021

Pastor's Piece

I often think about the expression of love. Jesus asked Peter three times, "Simon, do you love me?" "You know that I love you" replied Peter. Jesus asked Peter three times not because he wouldn't know Peter's heart but because Jesus wanted him to express that love. For one who denied Jesus three times, Jesus restored his spirituality and assured his calling by expressing the words of love.

My wife, Ara, often asks me, "Do you love me?" She knows that I love her but she always wants to hear the words that come out of my mouth. I saw her smiling happy face after I said, "I love you like the stars in the sky and the water in the ocean."

I was shocked when one of my college professors told me that every day for forty years he has never missed saying, "I love you" to his wife. Not even one single day. I was like "You've got to be kidding me." At the same time I thought this is something I need to learn and grow, and apply it into practice when I get married. Now that I've been married to Ara for eighteen and a half years, I often find myself not doing what I had pledged. So next month February, getting closer to Valentine's Day, I again pledge to do my best to express my love.

And in February we will begin a 40 day Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Lent is a holy time when we Christians ponder the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is also a time of renewal when we deeply examine our call to love God and neighbor. Jesus Christ expressed his love for us on the cross, and it is through his love that we learn to love and serve others.

Dear FUMCVC brothers and sisters, is there anyone who needs your word of love? As Valentine's Day is getting close and as we are embarking on a Lenten journey together, it might be a great idea to express and deliver the words of love to them.

The night before Jesus was arrested, he shared his last supper with his disciples. And then he wrapped his waist and poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet. Jesus expressed his love for his disciples at this last moment of his life.

To Jesus, I humbly express my love for him and for my parishioners. "I love you."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ji



OUR PRAYERS FOR

Those Within the Church

**Jerry Browning, Judy Dellinger, Jodi Lewis's brother George Maskrid,
the family of Kent Turner at his passing, Janine Voth's brother-in-law Gary Heaton**

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
- † CPL Cody Blair – Judy Lann's grandson
- † Dennis Burns Jr (DJ) – Dennis Burns Sr & Lisa Soetebier's son
- † Lt. Col. Adam Coffman – Gladys Coffman's grandson
- † Kristopher Dewitt – Mary Stout's grandson
- † Chance Greenhoff – Army
- † James Harris (MP) – Bill & Joy Page's grandson
- † Austin Kroeger
- † Sydney Lang – Navy
- † SPC Bryant Leinen – Warren & Jeanne Leinen's grandson
- † Erik Nott & family – Doug & Gay Vannaman's son-in-law
- † SGT Steven Pearce – Walt & Janet Southards' nephew
- † Erik Ralsten
- † CPL Bethany Reeves
- † David Ruckman – Roy & Linda McFarland's nephew
- † AIC Bradley Southards – Walt & Janet Southards's grandson
- † CMSAF Jeffrey Stockwell – Melissa Lampe Stockwell's husband



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	9 Laura Schumock	10 Jonathan Stiglitz	10 Susan Scribner
10 Judy Wilson	10 Scarlett Stockdale	11 Darrell Henderson	12 Courtney Sayers
15 Jenna Edwards	15 Jerry Browning	17 Annalise Hubenett	18 Amy Patrick Stamm
18 Andi Sayers	19 Judie Myers	19 Dorene Ruth	19 Christian Kennedy
19 Corbin Adams	21 Verna Carter	22 Hazel Moore	22 Marilyn Hatch
22 Katie Wenzel	23 Chanda Brownlee	23 Joey Spratt	24 Brad Diehl
24 Jett Stockdale	25 Roger Williams	25 Austin Boyd	26 Paul Ward
26 Reid McCallum	26 Marshall Simon	27 Noble Callaway	27 Judy Lann
28 Michael Spratt	28 Lindsey Buell	28 Ji Seok Ju	28 Brian Meyer
29 Michelle Holle			



9 Ron & Terri McKown

18 Don & Kathy Pearson

Thank You to...

The family of Dora Mae Mooberry would like to thank everyone for the cards and correspondence. Dora Mae is getting older and may not remember everyone, but she loves to receive mail. If you would like to mail her a card, her address is 2520 S Mina Ave, Joplin, MO, 64804.

Thank you to the church family for the many acts of loving kindness shared with Del and Betty James during their illnesses and Betty's passing. Your gifts of food, cards, visits, calls, prayers and other acts of caring continue to bring a great deal of comfort and blessing.

Del James and Family



Souper Bowl Sunday – **Sunday, February 7.**
Please bring a can (or more) of soup and place it under your favorite team emblem. We'll announce OUR Souper Bowl winner on Monday, February 8. All donations will be given to the Valley Center Food Pantry.



WOW ZONE!



Wednesday, February 10, 2021 / 6:00p - 6:45p

Children's Wednesday Night Activities (for those three years old through fifth grade) will begin to meet in-person on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021!**

We'll meet from 6:00p to 6:45p. Please drop-off and pick-up at Entrance B (middle doors on east side).

We want to see you in the zone...the **WOW ZONE!**

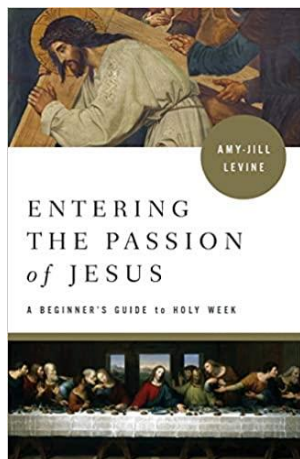
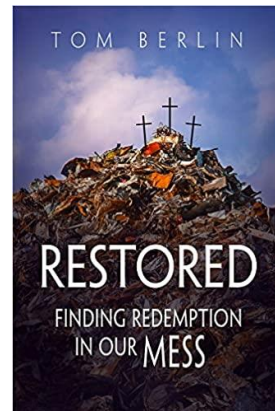
ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us **Wednesday, February 17, 2021** for our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30p in the Sanctuary. Not comfortable returning to in-person worship just yet. No worries. The service will be livestreamed. We will also prepare Ash Wednesday packets for those who wish to participate at home. Please contact the office to order yours before Wednesday, February 10. **Ash Wednesday packets will be available for pick-up Sunday, February 14 or Tuesday, February 16 and Wednesday, February 17.** The church office will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day.



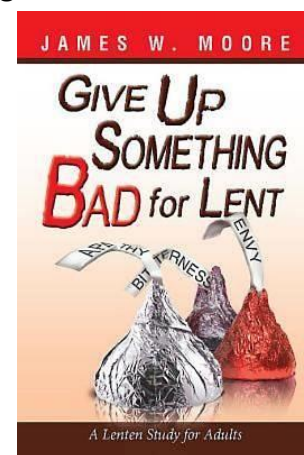
LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess – Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this book, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption and restoration. Using Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption. This class will be led by Phoebe McCormick and will meet **Sunday** afternoons, beginning **February 21** at 3:00p in the Fireside Room. *Cost of the book is \$8.00.*



PROGRESSIVE CLASS – Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. The Progressive Class meets Monday nights at 7:00p in the Fireside Room. This study will begin on **Monday, February 22, 2021**. *Books can be purchased on your own.*

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY – During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often it is something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday they can once again enjoy what they have given up. James Moore challenges readers to take it further—to give up something spiritually that they would be better off not doing. He invites all to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking, how much better life would be. The forty days of Lent are ideal to use this study and prepare to give up something bad while preparing to fully embrace the "Good News" of Easter. This study group will meet Wednesdays at 6:00p in the Fireside Room beginning **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**. *Cost of the book is \$8.00.*



If you would like to participate in any of the Lenten studies, please contact the office so we know how many to expect. Books for the Pastor's Bible Study and the study led by Phoebe are available in the office for a cost of \$8.00 each.

WHY ASHES? CONNECTING TO WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE CAN BE

Why ashes?

In "A Service for Worship for Ash Wednesday" in the *United Methodist Book of Worship*, two suggestions of what worship leaders may say as they make the sign of the cross on another's forehead are offered: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and "Repent, and believe the gospel." Each points to an aspect of what the ashes represent.

Remember that you are dust...

Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated *dust*, is occasionally translated *ashes* elsewhere.

When Abraham felt the need to acknowledge the difference between him, a human being, and the infinite God, he referred to himself as dust and ashes. "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord," he said, "I who am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27).

...and to dust you shall return

Our humanity also calls to mind our mortality.

After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). We know the day is coming for each of us when we will return to dust.

We wear black as a sign of mourning. Ancient people wore ashes. For example, Mordecai puts on sackcloth and ashes to grieve the many deaths he sees coming from an order King Ahasuerus gives to kill all Jewish people (Esther 4:1-3). The prophet Jeremiah later calls the people of God to "roll in ashes" as a way of mourning the coming devastation from an opposing army (Jeremiah 6:26).

Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront our humanity and mortality. They remind us that we are not God, but God's good creation. In them we recognize that our bodies will not last forever, and come face-to-face with the reality of our eventual death.

Repent...

Ashes also signify our sorrow for the mistakes we have made. People in ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a way of expressing their repentance of their sins.

When Jonah reluctantly preached to the people of Nineveh after the giant fish spit him up on the beach, the King and his people put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. God saw this act of repentance and spared the people (Jonah 3:1-10).

In the New Testament Jesus mentions this practice. Warning the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida Jesus said, "if the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives and put on funeral clothes and ashes a long time ago." (Matthew 11:21 CEB).

When we participate in the service of ashes, we confront our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, and our need to be forgiven. No matter how often we go to church, how far we have come in our spiritual journeys, how accomplished we may feel, each of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The palms waved the previous Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus as our King, have been burned to form the ashes. In some sense, they serve as a reminder of how far we fall short of living up to the glory of Christ.

On the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity and repenting of our sin.

...and believe the gospel

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

One Wednesday every year we go to church remembering who we are, and hopeful of who we can be.

**Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. He may be reached at jiovino@umcom.org or 615-312-3733. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/why-ashes-connecting-to-who-we-are-and-who-we-can-be>*

Fasting for Healthcare Workers Project

FUMCVC has partnered with Big Larry's Burgers in Valley Center for the Fasting for HealthCare Workers Project. During Lent, we are asking congregants to fast at least one day each week and then donate the money they would have spent on food that day to our Fasting for HealthCare Workers project. At the end of Lent, we will donate that money to Big Larry's Burgers and they will provide a meal (or meals) for HealthCare Workers at Ascension Via Cristi (where Big Larry's wife is a registered nurse). Donating is easy! We will have a special collection box for your donations next to the offering box. Not sure fasting is for you? Maybe you are planning on giving up for Lent pop or sweets or some other treat on which you normally spend money? You could donate the money you would normally spend on those goodies.

****CAUTION**** While fasting can be healthy for many people, you should speak to your doctor first if you have certain medical conditions or are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to conceive. Fasting is not recommended for people who have had an eating disorder.

https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/how-to-fast#TOC_TITLE_HDR_12



Sermon Series

We will begin a seven-week sermon series called "Meeting Jesus." During Lent we will work from Matthew's Gospel to learn more about Jesus. The series will help us recall the key events of Jesus' life and ministry here on earth and it will eventually lead us to ponder the reason why Jesus came to die—to forgive his people of their sin. I invite you to join us as we prepare to walk and meet with Jesus through Lent and Holy Week.



KANSAS DAY

Kansas Day as an annual celebration of Kansas' statehood is fairly unique among all the other states. The day is fondly remembered by adults who grew up in Kansas to those who have moved to other states or countries. This pride in being a Kansan was part of Kansas Day celebrations from its beginning as shown in the piece below. The following is taken from an article originally published in the January 1932 issue of *The Kansas Teacher and Western School Journal*. The article "The Origin of Kansas Day" was written by Esther Clark Hill, Kansas Historical Society.

Kansas Day was born in Paola in 1877. In the Paola public school 15 or 20 youngsters were studying United States history in Alexander LeGrande Copley's classroom, and on January 8, 1877, the lesson happened to be the battle of New Orleans. Intense interest was created in the class by the fact that 62 years before that, to the very hour, General Jackson's riflemen were peppering the British red-coats from behind the cotton bales. The whole school awoke to patriotism on that anniversary and decided to celebrate their pride in Kansas and its victories of peace.

So it was announced that an afternoon would be set apart for the study of Kansas – its geography, its history and its resources; and the afternoon selected was January 29, 1877. For two weeks the students were busy outside of school getting together every available piece of information concerning Kansas. They searched encyclopedias, plied parents with questions, and stirred the whole community to furnish local history, statistics and valuable and interesting facts bearing upon that one subject.

The eventful day came. The blackboard extended three-quarters of the way around the room and was fairly covered by the pupils with careful drawings of the state seal and maps of the state, the county and township. The motto of the state was conspicuous in red and blue chalk. The banner counties in wheat, corn, oats, hay, cattle, hogs, horses, sheep and even mules were on the board. On the board were also the Kansas songs. One was Whittier's "Song of the Kansas Emigrant". Another was Lucy Larcom's "The Call to Kansas."

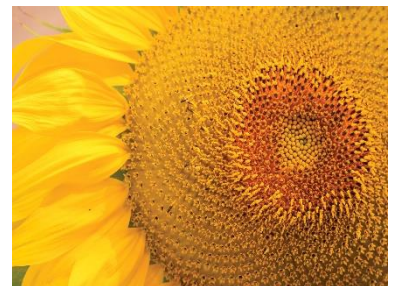
Then there were short speeches by two or three boys — extracts from Horace Greeley and Charles Sumner. Questions in Kansas history, asked by one side of the room and answered by the other; first things in Kansas, such as the first printing press, the first school, the first railroad, the first capital, the first newspaper. There was one mistake—the exercises should not have been held in the schoolroom, but in the largest hall in town, to accommodate the parents and friends who wanted to get in but couldn't.

In 1879 Copley became superintendent of the schools in Wichita, and, of course, the day was appropriately observed there. Meanwhile it was his hobby to attend the county teachers' institutes and at the state teachers' association meetings, held then every year in Topeka at the Christmas holidays and encourage the teachers to celebrate Kansas Day. A description of Copley's celebration appeared in the *Kansas Educationist*. Newspapers of the state described the celebration as a Kansas institution.

The day after Thanksgiving, in 1882, the first Northwestern Teachers Association was held in Beloit. It was then and there decided that a small pamphlet should be published giving the concise information about the state, songs and sample speeches suitable for the proper observance of the day. Del Valentine, of the *Clay Center Dispatch*, printed the book. It was called *Kansas Day* and contained 32 pages. Two thousand copies were printed. At the next State Teachers Association in Topeka the booklet was a prominent feature. Every teacher took home one or more copies. Purchased copies went to 65 counties in the state. For a short time the booklet was used as a textbook in the state normal school at Emporia.

Kansas Day continued to grow for more than 130 years. Today it is celebrated by teachers and students across the state.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/kansas-day/16773>





The Broadcaster
First United Methodist Church
560 N. Park Ave
Valley Center, KS 67147
316.755.1112
fumvc.org

