

The Witness

The Newsletter of
Red Bank United Methodist

March 2022

"For dust you are and to dust you will return."
-- Genesis 2:19c



Wednesday, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent which is 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays because each Sunday is a “mini” Easter). It is my prayer that you will make every effort to attend our Ash Wednesday Worship Service that evening, 6:30 p.m.

Over the years, people have told me that this is one of the most moving services they have experienced, and it makes sense. On Ash Wednesday we are taking a good look at our mortality and what it means to be a human in this world created by God.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday symbolize two main things: death and repentance. Ashes are dust, and the Bible tells us that God created us from the dust of the earth. When a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash. This is the Reality we all face together.

Another Reality we all face together is sin. We live in a broken world. Things are not as they should be and we are not as we should be. We all sin. We all fall short and there is nothing we can, on our own, do about this. We are told that the wages or what we get for sin is death. That is the outcome. That is Reality.

Another Reality is that God has come to earth in human form right into human history. This is Jesus Christ Who was born in Palestine some 2,000 years ago. *“To accept this unique Fact cannot but affect the whole of our life”* (Phillips J.B., *Your God Is Too Small*, pg. 83). It means that we readjust our purpose, our values, what we will ultimately do with our lives. And this is a good thing, a very good thing and this is because Jesus is GOOD! And we know God through knowing Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came into our world. He lived a sinless life, but at the same time, did not think Himself to be above us. Instead, He called us brothers and sisters. He taught us facts about life and how to live that we know in our subconscious to be true. The irony of it all is that God planned and engineered a personal visit into His own world, and our reaction was to get rid of Him (paraphrased from Phillips, J.B., *Your God Is Too Small*, pg. 81).

But get rid of Him we could not. And this is the Greatest News the world has ever known. Jesus Christ—God become flesh—rose from the dead so that through faith in Him we will be raised as well—changed forever! This is what we are getting ready to celebrate during the 40 days of Lent. But in the “getting ready” it is good to reflect on why Jesus had to come. It is good to reflect on what great love God has for you and for me that He would forsake heaven to be killed by His own creatures in order to save them from sin and death. Jesus has died to forgive us for our sins.

So, when we come forward on Ash Wednesday, we are saying we are sorry for our sins and we want to use the season of Lent to focus on being sorry and to focus on how God wants to continue to mold us and change us more and more into His image. We do this while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy to the message of Easter and Christ’s ultimate victory over sin and death. If we are intentional, this Lenten season can be so much more than just another march through March and April. It can be life-changing and life-giving. Won’t you please join me on this great adventure.

In His Service—Pastor Ken

MARCH 2022 - NEWSLETTER

Some times we might think that children can't understand spiritual concepts, but children have an innate spirituality and curiosity about God and spiritual things. To help children to understand what Lent is, we will talk about a special time in the church year when we focus on spiritual things that bring us closer to God. During Lent, there is a big emphasis on "giving something up," usually a favorite food or perhaps a pleasurable activity. There's nothing wrong with suggesting we give something up for Lent, as long as we understand why we are doing it and doing it in the right spirit. It's important to explain to the children that giving up something for Lent can help us focus on God and that depriving ourselves of something we like gives us an appreciation for all we have. It's also a good idea to suggest we do something positive related to what we're giving up. For instance, if they've given up candy for Lent, then you could take the money you would have spent on candy and put it in a jar to be used for an organization that serves the community. If they've decided to give up watching television one day a week, then you could suggest they use the time they would have spent watching TV helping someone or praying. Instead of focusing on giving something up, we can help children learn about serving, giving and loving others as well!

**WHAT WE ARE
LEARNING:**

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

This month we continue our series that is teaching us how important the Bible is to our faith! We will continue our journey learning more about the books in the Old Testament!

EVENTS

- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE -

March 2nd @ 6 pm

- COMMUNITY EASTER CELEBRATION -

April 10th

- SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP -

June 6-10th 2022

We will be hosting a FREE
Day Camp

8:45 am-3pm for Ages 5-14

See Flyer for Registration details!

Questions
Contact Robin Keeling
Children's Ministry Director
(863)221-3195
rbumkids@gmail.com



Discipleship

Sunday Night “The Chosen” – 4:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall.

We are viewing the video series “The Chosen” about Jesus and his disciples. Everyone is welcome to join.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: – 10:00 a.m. – Parlor/Zoom

Study in the Gospel of Matthew – Led by David Brackett in person and on Zoom.

Wednesday Night Study: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Pastor Ken is leading a study of the book “Your God is too Small” by J.B. Phillips

Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. with the study from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

College Age Small Group: Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. – Room 215 p.m.

This group discusses various topics at they relate to the Christian Life. Led by various members of the group.

Youth (Grades 6-12):

Cornerstone Youth Class is meeting in the Loft with Rev. Sauer teaching confirmation lessons.

Youth Foundation Bible Study – Sunday Nights at 5:30 p.m. – They are currently “Flipping thru Philipians”

Spring youth retreat “Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire”, March 18 – 20 at Camp Lookout

Young at Heart (for all Senior Adults)

February 2022:

8	9:00 a.m. -	Outing:	Breakfast at “The Daily Ration”
24	10:30 a.m. -	Program:	Linda Moss Mines will be giving a presentation on local history.



Saturday, May 7!

Rummage Sale!!!

Our youth will be sponsoring a huge Rummage Sale on Saturday May 7th! The trailer for donations will be located at the end of the CAC building beginning April 4th. This trailer will be open all the time for you to bring your treasures for us to sale. Proceeds to youth summer mission trip.





March

- 1 Betty Owens
- 4 Billie Glasscock
- 11 Raymond Beebe
- 12 Madison DeFriese
- 14 Jerry Watkins
- 18 Bobby Trainor
- 20 Gayle Massengale
- 22 Carol Perkins, Kathy Stanfield, Marsena Walker
- 26 Carron Trainor
- 28 Wendy Lyness, Trevor Owens
- 29 Betty Martin
- 30 Amanda Conry
- 31 Valerie Campbell

April

- 3 Celia Lyon
- 4 Janet Jenkins
- 7 Debra Pitkin
- 8 Mackenzie DeFriese
- 10 Linda Bailey
- 12 Jerome Emerson
- 13 David Massengale
- 14 Nick Edwards
- 16 Scott Brown
- 19 Donna Scott
- 24 Nonye LaRue, Ware Hart
- 26 Stella Campbell
- 30 Shannon DeFriese

- 12 Raymond and Sue Beebe
- 17 James and Jerry Tollett
- 20 Jack and Debra Pitkin
- 25 Jerry and Beth Watkins



- 13 Jerry and Kay Moore
- 26 Jerry and Lois Jordan
- 30 Jeff and Sheri Morris

Prayer Concerns:

Betty Harris, Elizabeth Kay, Debby Brackett,
 Ken & Sylvia Newman, Drew Lowe, Serie Bland,
 Clay Clem, Bub Gilliland, Georgette Edwards,
 Ethel Brooks, Jim Wulf, Jay Bland, Jennifer Jones,
 Jerry Jordan, JC Barker, Joy Haskett, Kenny James,
 Bill Moore, Teresa Baines



Time Change:
 Saturday, March 12
 Spring your clock FORWARD one hour
 when going to bed!



Palm Sunday
 Sunday, April 10



April 17