

*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*



From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday is the last Sunday before the beginning of the Lenten Season. Lent is a time of preparation, repentance, and renewal as we look towards Easter. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing himself for his public ministry, so we spend 40 days in preparation for the new life we find in Jesus' resurrection.

I often marvel at churches who don't observe Lent. How can we really celebrate Jesus' resurrection if we haven't walked with him through his trial, suffering, crucifixion, and death? Lent makes us more thankful for what Jesus has done for us and what God continues to do through him. This is not to say that Lent is all about feeling bad about ourselves. In fact, Lent is a time of joy, as we remind ourselves what is important in life and we are renewed in our relationships with God and one another.

We will begin our Lenten observance with a special **Ash Wednesday service** next **Wednesday** in the **Billy Ball Chapel at 6:15**. This service of scripture, song, and the imposition of ashes reminds us of the frailty of our own existence and the goodness of the God we serve. I hope you will join us for this special service.

Matt

Soup Kitchen Report from Sunday, February 16

What a wonderful day! We opened the doors at 11:30 with 50 people eager to get in and the room was filled for the entire hour. We served over 200 adults and children plus we provided coats to 83 men, women and children from our Coat Ministry. The exact number of people is an estimate because we simply lost count during the hectic pace of the day, but be assured, we provided a delicious meal to many folks today. Sixteen Fernwood members and five Community Service Workers helped to make this a blessed day for all.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 26

6:15pm | Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel



Love Offering for

Suzanne Brown & Family

From February 23 until March 15

Many of you have asked what you can do for Suzanne and her family. The Deacons have approved a love offering. You will have an opportunity to share your love and concern for Suzanne through the love offering which will be taken up between Sunday, February 23 through Sunday, March 15. The offering will be used to help defer the cost of living in Durham during Suzanne's stem cell procedure. Love Offering envelopes are located on the information table in the concourse. Please clearly mark your check or cash "for Suzanne". *****Your contribution is considered a gift to the Brown's and is not tax deductible by the donor.***

For the Lenten Season

The Spiritual Development/Prayer Ministry Team is recommending the following devotional booklet for the Lenten season: It is titled "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross", and it is offered by the Luther Seminary. Search Luther Seminary Lenten Devotional 2020 to download.

March Family Night Supper Menus

March 4

Pork Tenderloin
Mashed potatoes
Mixed Veggies & Roll
Dessert

March 11

Grilled Chicken Salad
Baked potatoes with all trimmings
Bread & Dessert

March 18

Chicken & Dumplings
Garden salad & Fruit
Dessert

March 25

Crack Chicken Casserole with rice
Salad
Dessert



June 12-14, 2020

After a year off, we're going back to Virginia and the Creeper Trail! There's much to do in the towns of Abingdon and Damascus; the bike ride is just one option. Come relax with church friends, play some games, enjoy a beautiful view of nature, and eat good food! The trip is also open to friends who are not members of Fernwood.

We are again staying at the Jubilee House Retreat Center. It offers a central area for our group to eat and gather, with basic motel-style rooms, each having a private bathroom.

www.jubileeretreat.org

Cost for:

- two nights' lodging
- use of the central facilities
- breakfast Sat and Sun
- sandwiches for Sat lunch

Room: \$65/night

+ \$35 per person (food, central facilities)

Most rooms have a double and a twin bed; some have one double or two twins. Extra nights can be added before or after the weekend; contact Jubilee directly.

Optional Activities and estimated cost per person:

- Virginia Creeper Trail bike ride, an easy 17-mile downhill peddle (\$25-30)
- Kayaking, a gentle 90-minute paddle with the current (\$25)
- Tubing, 2 hours through rippling (though likely cold!) waters (\$12)
- Barter Theater - Wizard of Oz, Grace & Glorie, Pinocchio (\$20-49)
- Winery tastings (\$8-14) and/or tour (\$25)
- Antiquing (your budget is your limit!)
- Hiking (free)
- Plus lots more to experience in the area!

For more information, contact Penny Ginn at pennyginn13@gmail.com

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Please call ahead for availability.
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Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, March 4, 2020**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!