



Pastor Ken's Column



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance and reflection on our own mortality. The Lenten journey continues for 40 days (plus 6 Sundays), during

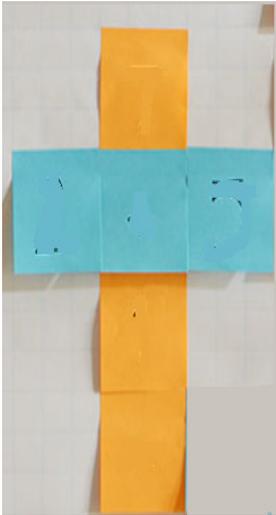
which we have an opportunity to consider our life with God, our faith journeys. Am I headed in the right direction in life? Where have I been faithful to Christ's teachings? Where have I fallen short? In which areas of my life am I being called to change, to do something different, or to head in a new direction? This grace-filled period of self-examination and reflection prepares our hearts, minds, bodies and souls to meet the Risen Christ on Easter and faithfully place our lives into God's hands to experience the joy of transformation and new life.

I encourage each of us to take this season seriously this year. Take time to reflect on the core scriptures of our faith and the scriptures which form the foundation of our individual lives. One suggestion is to read at least one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. Since we are reading through Luke's Gospel as worship texts this year, you may want to read Luke in order to be more prepared to receive the message on Sunday.

In addition to reading the scriptures, set aside time each day (or as many days as possible) for contemplation and reflection on your life. Where and to whom have I reflected the face of Christ? When and with whom have I hidden the light of Christ? How is God calling me to serve more fully? What do I need to let go of? What is God revealing to me about myself? What am I being called to change about myself, with the Spirit's help – attitudes, emotions, activities? Am I too cautious or too bold for my own good? What does it mean to be a person of faith in the world today? What will I leave at the foot of the cross, in faith that Christ will offer mercy and forgiveness, transformation and new life?

Our faith teaches that God is with us in the midst of life, often being revealed subtly, yet sometimes powerfully and without a doubt. Spending time in the scriptures and prayerful reflection offers opportunities for Christ to be revealed along life's journey. In those moments we find forgiveness and mercy, joy and peace, hope and new life.

I pray the Spirit of the Living God is shown to us in deep, profound ways this Lent, so that we might strengthen our walk with Christ and commit to deeper discipleship and service as his followers.



The Giving Cross is coming soon. Hughes is again working with TESS (Takoma East Silver Spring) Community Center to assist three needy families with food and household items at Eastertide. These families have all endured financial hardship and are caring for young children. One mother just gave birth to twins but due to complications is still hospitalized with the babies.

Your help with Giving Cross items and financial donations too are again needed. A large cross will appear in the Narthex March 19th. please take one or more stickers and return the item(s) with the sticker attached to the outside of the package. The due date for all items will be Palm Sunday, April 9th. Delivery will most likely occur that Wednesday the 12th. Jill Glixon and Kathy Ripley truly appreciate all you do for these missions. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

March Worship Opportunities

March 1, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday

We join together in worship with our brothers and sisters of the Silver Spring UMC at 7:30 p.m. Worship will be held in the newly renovated multi-purpose space at the 4 Corners Ministry Site (former Marvin Memorial Church, University Blvd & Colesville Rd).

Our service will help us reflect on our journey with God, from repentance to new life, using prayer stations, the imposition of ashes, teaching and conversation, and celebrating holy communion together. A time of fellowship will conclude the service.

March 5, 2017 – Lent 1

Theme: Being a neighbor in a time of fear and division

Scripture: Luke 10:25-42

Sermon Title: "See a Neighbor; Be a Neighbor"

A Service of Holy Communion

March 12, 2017 – Lent 2

Theme: Faith-keeping, even in the midst of struggles, pain and lament.

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

Sermon Title: "A Fig Tree and a Hen"

March 19, 2017 – Lent 3

Theme: Recognizing God's search for the human race and celebrating that we are found and welcomed back into relationship

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Sermon Title: "Lost and Found"

March 26, 2017 – Lent 4

Theme: Offering our blessings in hospitality and compassion

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

Sermon Title: "Bridging the Chasm"

A worship celebration with El Buen Samaritano at 10:30 a.m.

Our Church Family

Birth:

Amishadai Maila Montano, daughter of Keyla Montano, granddaughter of Tito and Maria Montano, was born February 11, 2017. She weighed 7 lbs and was 20 inches long.

Deaths:

David Scott Conklin (son of Barbara Conklin) died January 18, 2017.

Gertrude Spahn (mother of Laraine Grant) died January 28, 2017.

Michael Proffitt (father of Anne Dean) died February 10, 2017.

Dean Britter, son of Ken Britter, died February 11, 2017.

Donna Hughes (former member) died February 18, 2017.

Flowers were placed on the altar Sunday, February 12 by Sandy Van Metre and family in memory of Pastor Ed Van Metre who died while serving our church as pastor on February 12, 1990.

Thank You Note

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the members and staff of Hughes for the outpouring of the kind expressions of sympathy to me for the recent loss of my mother, Trudy Spahn. I know they say the “process” is that with each day, things will settle a little more and take their place... the Lord will offer patience to me.

I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful Mother - I know she is watching and is appreciative that I have all of you to help me in this journey. I am blessed to be at Hughes in what is now and has been, very challenging times.

Laraine Grant

Financial Snapshot		
Operating Budget	January 2017	Total 2017
Income	\$52,400	\$52,400
Expenses	\$50,712	\$50,712



Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 9 AM to 2 PM
Sponsored by United Methodist Women
Hughes United Methodist Church

Your donations to the Rummage and Bake Sale this month benefit people in the community, help the Methodist Women support some of their worthy projects. It can also help you to put to good use some of the things you have that are not being used.

NEEDED: Clean/new gently used clothing for men, women and children, household items, **appliances in working condition**, kitchenware, bedspreads, curtains, dishes, pans, toys, sports equipment, tools, costume jewelry, etc.

You may bring your donations to the Social Hall or Gym on Wednesday, March 15 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Thursday March 16 or Friday, March 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Drop off Bake Sale goodies either Friday or Saturday morning. Please note ingredients on baked goods.

Help is still needed for setting up the Rummage Sale on Wednesday (5 to 9 p.m.), Thursday & Friday (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) and to work at the sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Clean up will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Call Doree Thorpe (240-281-0977) or Jeanette Baxter (301-933-8199) for more information or to schedule work time.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!

You're Invited:

Please join us following the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, March 26th for a safety and security presentation and a follow-up question and answer session.

We will view a 20-minute ministry security video, "The Church Safety and Security Program" produced by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety. This presentation was part of a day long workshop sponsored by the church's insurance company, *Brotherhood Mutual*, and attended by representatives from our *Ushers and Trustees*.

SECURITY and YOU, a SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

United Methodist Women March Calendar

Friendship Circle is on the 7th in the Parlor at their regular times. Check the Sunday Bulletins for any changes.

If you shop at Giant, please consider buying Giant Gift Cards to use for your grocery shopping. We receive 5% from each card sold. The 5% has been used to provide scholarships of \$200 for each of our graduates and to accomplish other projects around our Church *when* funds are available. Gift Cards for \$25., \$50, and \$100 are sold in the library between services. These gift cards can also be used for Pea Pod purchases.



Food Collection

For Glen Haven Elementary March 1 through March 19th

Our Sunday School is partnering with Glen Haven Elementary School to provide some non-perishable food items during the month of March. Food items may be brought to the church and placed in the basket that will be in the Garden Entrance.

Items requested are cereal (including prepackaged oatmeal), spaghetti sauce, soups, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, and jelly.

For more information, please see Sharon Skinner.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Kindly e-mail your Caller articles to Marty Weaver, Editor at caller@hughesumc.org or place them in the Caller drawer outside of the Church Office by the 15th of each month.

Please visit the Hughes Website at www.hughesumc.org