



## The Nashville United Methodist Church

Introducing people to Jesus Christ, by teaching and maturing disciples for the transformation of the world.

P.O.Box 399  
Nashville, Ohio 44661

March 2017

### Prayer Chain

Anyone wishing to be put on the computer or the telephone prayer chain please contact Janice Tope at [jltope@yahoo.com](mailto:jltope@yahoo.com) and-or telephone 330-378-2723. Leave your email address and-or phone number. Getting Sunday's prayers by email gives you an opportunity to review the tremendous praises offered to God each week. On the telephone chain we ask you to pass the request or praise on to the next person on the prayer circle. You will be given a copy of the prayer circle.

### Youth Center

The old church basement has been transformed into a bright and cheery youth center! New flooring was installed; junk removed and the stark white walls painted. The youth of the church like it a lot. Parishioners are welcome to take a look! Lots of volunteer time went into the transformation.

### Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00PM April 13

Good Friday Service - 7:00PM April 14

Easter Sunrise Service - 7:30AM April 16

Breakfast - 8:30AM

Sunday School - 9:15AM

Worship Service- 10:30AM

Vacation Bible School in July will be Sonwest Roundup.

The next Administrative Council meeting is Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The committee chairpersons are the members of the council. If a committee chairperson cannot attend, they should send a written report.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month has been designated a praise worship Sunday. On Sunday, April 30 the bell choir will be performing during church services.

**Reminder** – The church provides free copies of Our Daily Bread to any church attendee who wants one. They are available on the table with the bulletins.

### Sunday School News

Noah's Ark Class is using the Curriculum *"At Worship with God"*

Jr/Sr High Class is using a *David Cook series*

Adult classes are using *"Disciples Path," "Give it Up, a Lenten Study for Adults,"* and *"The Wired Word"*

Something for everyone!

### Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 12, 2017 was Boy Scout Sunday. There were lots of Boys Scouts of all ages and they brought in and took out their flags before and after services. They had a brief presentation and awarded badges. The boys served as ushers and took up the collection. Afterward there was a light lunch provided.

## Lunch Bunch

This quarter's Lunch Bunch Schedule is:

March 22 – Ham and Bean Dinner

April 26 – Italian

May 24 – Pot Luck

Homeowner applications are available at the district office or on the district website. If you know someone in your community that would benefit from this act of love and service, please share the information with them. Cost for volunteers is \$15/person to cover liability insurance which is required. Learn more and download a volunteer application on the website.

Last year we had six families that requested help but we only had enough volunteers to complete four of the projects. We are anticipating more projects this year, so prayerful consider being a part of this meaningful outreach.

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter. This year, Lent begins on March 1 and ends on April 15.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

How well do you know the traditions and symbols of the season? We encourage you to check <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/lent-quiz> **each week day during Lent** to try a new question and hopefully enrich your experience of Lent and Easter.

Find devotionals, activities for families, inspiring stories and information about our faith for the observance of the Lenten and Easter seasons on our [Lent & Easter page](#) at umc.org.

*This quiz was produced by [United Methodist Communications](#).*

## HEY THREE RIVERS YOUTH LEADERS

We are starting a Three Rivers Youth Leader's Network group. Other districts are currently following this format and it has been a great way for youth leaders around the districts to connect with one another. Our aim is to create a way for us to connect, network, share ideas and resources, support each other in our struggles or successes and just get to know one another! We will hold informal gatherings every month or two in different locations around the district. If you are interested in being part of this, please let me know!

Chasity Opphile, Three Rivers District Youth Coordinator

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## Message from the Pastor

The beginning of the Lenten season is upon us, which means Easter is less than forty days away! For some of us, the question arises, “what is Lent and what good is it for me?” The days of Lent my friends, are marked as a time of faith-filled meditation, fasting and repentance from Ash Wednesday (last night), until Easter. With Christ's sacrifice and resurrection in full view, observers, in a sense, put a real focus on waging war against their human desires to put things of the world before God's Word.

For 40 days and nights (not counting Sundays), Christians around the world take on the important role of spiritual discipline as a way of deepening their faith in God. Observing Lent looks different for every believer, though fasting is usually a major role. Some choose to fast in the traditional way, giving up a meal or certain

types of foods. Others, after evaluating their lifestyle, determine to give up luxuries in order to focus more on their walk with our Heavenly Father, such as turning off the television or cell phones for Lent or cutting back on their sleep to devote the early morning hours to prayer and Scripture reading. The options are endless. The important thing is to be obedient to the moving of the Holy Spirit and follow through on exercising self-control in the area God is touching His finger on in your life. Whatever you decide to give up make sure you are in line with what the Bible says about fasting. In the book of Matthew 6:16-18, we are encouraged to fast in secret. *"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you".*

Just as the Son of Man resisted sin in the wilderness, purpose in your heart to remain steadfast during this time of consecration to God. Temptations come each day and will continue through this season. The Bible reveals many times when Jesus went away by himself and focused his attention on His Father, in Heaven. Lent is a set aside time for us to do the same. Fasting is an important part of observing Lent. For us, our self-centered nature will wage against our desire to deny ourselves. Stay strong my friends to the calling you have in this season. God's blessings are greater than the worldly pleasures we are giving up!

in His grip, Larry

