



FAITHnews

Monthly Newsletter of Eldridge United Methodist Church

February 2024

Greetings from Pastor Lee

Dear beloved family God,

I hope you are staying warm, safe, and healthy during this snowy and cold winter season. It seems like we have just passed the Advent & Christmas holiday, and now we see Lent coming around the corner.

According to the 2024 church calendar, Ash Wednesday falls on Feb 14. As many of you already know, 40 days Lenten journey begins with **Ash Wednesday**. This year, we will have Ash Wednesday service at McCausland, and we will mark the beginning of the Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes on our forehead, which is one of the most solemn moments both for a minister and members of the church.

The name "Lent" comes from the Anglo Saxon word "lencten" or "lenchthen," meaning "lengthen." So, does this season have something to do with lengthening "*something*"? Right! As spring appears, along with Lent, days are getting longer.

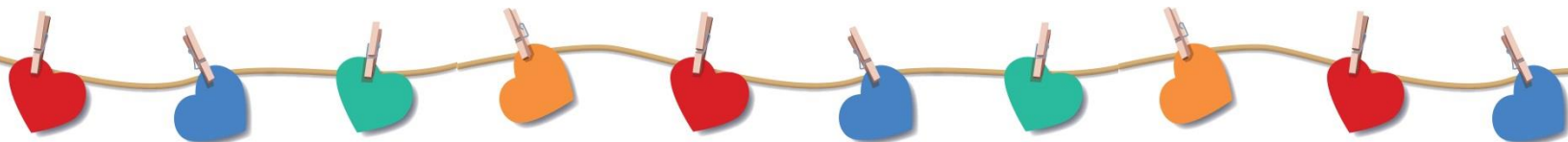
Lenten season is considered as the most significant time of the church year, as a time of self-examination and reflection, for the preparation of the coming Easter. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, we focus more on our relationship with God. I pray for all of us that our faith will grow further through this Lenten journey together, and at the end of this journey, which falls on March 31, we will become stronger than before as the family of God,

Let me remind you of the exhortation that our Lord gives to us all as the holy season is coming:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

Our Lord suffered greatly to bring the greatest hope and joy into our lives and into this world. Therefore, I invite you to come and join this journey with a reverent spirit and joyful anticipation.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor JaeHee Lee



I love my church family!

1. I and 29 other folks are looking forward to Saturday evening's "**FEBRUARY FLING**" **Valentine Dinner Party** here in the Gathering Area. Doors open at 5pm with dinner to be served at 5:15-ish. If you haven't already paid for your meal, you can do so that evening with a 5% late penalty . . . *just kidding, no late penalty!* Along with the delicious catered meal, there will be music, and frivolity, gifts and prizes . . . and most of all, loving friends! Can't wait!
2. This Sunday and Monday we will be preparing and serving the **CHURCH'S UNITED MEAL**. If you can help in any way, extra hands are always welcome. See chart or Joyce Orcutt.
3. Pastor is finishing up a week in Florida at a continuing education event. **GRACE KNAPPER** will once again be 'gracing' us by filling in at the pulpit this Sunday.
4. There will be **NO CHOIR PRACTICE** or anthem this Sunday (communion) but we will have another 4pm choir rehearsal this Sunday afternoon. The choir will return to worship next Sunday (18th), the first Sunday in Lent.
5. **FOOD PANTRY** emphasis for the month of FEBRUARY is Hamburger Helper & Side Dishes.
6. Here are upcoming **FEBRUARY CALENDAR DATES** of importance:
 - *Mondays / 10am – Quilters Bible Study at Joyce's house (starts this week!)
 - *Tuesdays / 10am – Bible Study in the Library
 - *Wednesdays / 9am – YOGA in the sanctuary
 - 10th – Men's Breakfast / 7am
 - 10th – "FEBRUARY FLING" Valentines Dinner Party / 5-8pm
 - 11th – Choir Practice / 4pm
 - 12th – Serve Churches United Meal
 - 13th – Administrative Council monthly meeting / 6:30pm
 - 14th – *Happy Valentine's Day*
 - 14th -- ASH WEDNESDAY – Joint Service in McCausland / 6pm
 - 18th – Morning Choir Practice resumes / 8am
 - 20th – Missions/Outreach Committee Meeting / 6pm
 - 25th – SOUP SUPPER at McUMC / 4:30-6:30pm
7. Trish would like me to remind you that if you have any questions about your End-of-Year 2023 Financial standing, please don't hesitate to catch her after church or call. She's happy to help out. (You should have received your Year-End Giving Statement by now.)

8.



Feb 1	Pastor Courtney
Feb 3	Keith Riewerts
Feb 7	Randy & Ana Kinney
Feb 8	Trish Reisener
Feb 10	Pastor Doug & Ethel Reynold
Feb 21	Rheta Allen
Feb 27	Carol Haugland
Feb 28	Troy & Andrea Petersen