



# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## “Notice, What I’m Doing Is Adding” *March Edition*

### Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

### Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

*(Emails answered throughout the day)*

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211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

### Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

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Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

While I’m writing this, I’m looking forward to eating pancakes for supper tonight. Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, gets its name from shriven, a term used in the Middle Ages to describe the confession necessary to prepare for the Lenten fast. However, Shrove Tuesday became associated more with a feast before the Lenten fast. The feast was created by using up the eggs, sugar, butter, and fatty meats that were not to be eaten during the 40 days of Lent. Rather than let the butter, eggs, sugar, and fatty meats go to waste; people began consuming all they had on hand just before they began the Lenten fast.

Unfortunately, I think we have forgotten the why behind the tradition in many cases. Eggs, butter, sugar, and fatty meats were removed not to make people’s lives miserable, but to create time to spend working on our relationship with God and with others. Fasting from food that took lots of effort to prepare created more time for scripture and prayer. Funds saved from buying these items could be used to support the poor. Fasting was intended to remind us of what Jesus gave up for us to be set free from sin. Yes, Jesus’ journey led to the cross where he would give his life up for us and we should be conscious of the cost of freedom. We also need to be aware of how Jesus gave of himself as he made the journey to the cross.

I’m still discerning exactly what I will be doing for my Lenten disciple this year. I know that I will be adding breath prayers at regular times of the day. This will allow me to practice my “star word” - breathe as I deepen my prayer life during the season of Lent. I’ll also take up speaking words of gratitude to people who have made a difference in my life.

Notice, what I’m doing is adding. I’ll give up some time that I usually spend doing other things to make room for these things. For example, a friend wrote a note to someone different each day during Lent as her Spiritual discipline and prayed for that person. She found that adding this was more important than focusing on what she was giving up.

When the question is “What are you giving up for Lent?” It is easy to come up with chocolate or soda, but not really having a meaning behind why you chose that specific item. A better question might be “What are you adding to your life as a Lenten discipline?” This question opens possibilities that motivate us to practice our Lenten Discipline.

Whether we add or give up we are establishing healthy boundaries for our lives during the season of Lent. These boundaries aren’t created by just deciding what we will add or give up. We discover the boundaries as we practice our Lenten discipline. If we ask these questions, we might get more spiritually and share more of God’s love if we ask the following questions:

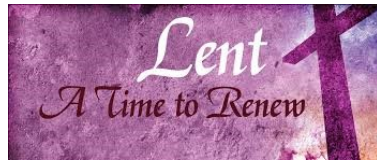
What transforms my time spent with God?

What am I discovering that separates me from God and others?

What happens when I share love and grace with others?

The journey of Lent takes us from the feast to the cross, from worldly things to intangible gifts of relationship, from the mess of the kitchen after the feast to the freedom of the empty tomb. I hope that you will join me on a Lenten journey and share what you learn.

Grace and peace,  
Laura



The kick start to Lent will be our Shrove Tuesday Pancake meal on March 1st at 6PM. We will have an Ash Wednesday service March 2nd at 6:30 PM. We will also offer three Bible studies, Pastor Laura will host a study on The Apostle's Creed Wednesday's in person at 10:30 AM and zoom at 6:30 PM. The Discipleship Committee will host a study on the forgiveness of Jesus on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm in person.



On Thursday, March 17th, the men will do a free will offering meal of corn beef and cabbage, this meal is offered dine in or carry out.

## **BASKET AUCTION**

The Basket Auction is back and we can't wait to see what type of baskets we will get this year. This will be held within the first two weeks of April and we will keep you updated on more details as they come together. We will have a meal and fellowship along with the auction. If you're able to and you'd like to help with this, please let Brooke know ASAP.

### **OUR PRAYERS:**

- Lynn Boan
- Betty Hodges
- Mark Goldstein
- Ann Gerace
- Gene Hunter
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Everett Burroughs
- Ed Hudson
- Cornell Thomas
- Family of Nell Swartz
- Dot Morgan
- Wilma Crayton

### ***Candy for a Cause***



The relay for life is a put on by the American Cancer Society and benefits many survivors and those still fighting. We'd love to help them with their relay coming up in April by donating some candy to them for their walk. If you're able please drop off individually wrapped bags of candy at the table in front of the office throughout March.



Backpack and serving Christian Charities are our two ongoing ministries. We are still working with these programs every week, food donations for both of these ministries can always be dropped off in the basket across the hall from the church office.



Our next blood drive will be March 24th from 2PM-7PM.



**Our Pastor and our Health and Welfare Committee are continuously working together and following the most recent guidelines to keep us safe and informed. We will keep you informed as we continue to navigate through these times.**



## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Shrove Tuesday Meal 6:30 PM UMW Circles 6:30P	2 UMM 7AM Ash Weds. Service 6:30 P	3 Nurture 6:30P	4	5
6	7 Finance 6:30P	8 Trustees 6PM Nominations 6:30P	9 UMM 7AM	10 Knitters 10AM SPRC 6:30 PM	11	12
13	14	15 UMW Board Meeting 6:30 PM	16 UMM 7AM	17 St. Patty's free will meal 6:00 PM Dine In	18	19
20	21	22	23 UMM 7AM	24 Knitters 10AM Blood Drive 2-7P	25	26
27	28	29	30 UMM 7AM	31		

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

well hello,  
**march**

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mike Quinlan 2	Alan Moore 11	Rolanda Dani 24
Norm Nichol 3	Joe Roberts 13	Betty Vannoy 24
Jason Harding 4	Charlie Bells 15	Garland Nettles 25
Jace Harding 5	Patsy Chandler 16	Ruth Johnson 28
Lance Towery 8	Carey Player 20	Ed Hudson 29
Courtney Gibbons 9	Jan Levy 20	Bev Beardsley 30
Gene Seiveno 10	Scott Smith 21	Doug Griffin 30
Rudy Miller 11	Shawn White 22	Lee Anna Harding 31
		Peggy Patrick 31