



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“Lent Is Coming”

February Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

Lent Is Coming

Lent is the season of preparation before Easter. It lasts 40 days, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Saturday (not including Sundays). From the time of the early church, Lent was considered a time of prayer and fasting. In the early church this was the time new converts prepared for baptism. Historically, it became a time when people decided to give up something – often food – as a way of preparing themselves through fasting. Jesus fasted in times of preparation, in the Wilderness when he was tempted. John Wesley encouraged practicing regular times of fasting in order to draw closer to God.

The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, and Pancake Day. The tradition of pancakes, crepes, and cakes came about after Pope St. Gregory declared, “We abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk, cheese, and eggs.” Thus, people started to use up those ingredients before Lent began. In some places, cleaning these ingredients out of the kitchen was supposed to relieve those working in kitchens so that they would have extra time to pray.

Now many choose to give something up for Lent and others take up a new discipline for this time. The point is to intentionally practice prayer and confession. Around 150 years before Pope St. Gregory’s declaration, Pope Leo I preached a sermon that questioned the purpose of fasting and suggested that fasting be “adorned with mercy.” (Donigian, George. *A World Worth Saving*, p 10) Maybe we need to both give up something that takes time and replace that time with acts of mercy.

I am excited about the resources that I am using this year for Lent. Kate Bowler and her team created free Lenten resources through grants available through the Duke Endowment and Eli Lily Foundation. This means that there are free daily Lenten guides, weekly discussion guide, and a sermon guide to help prompt me to go deeper as I prepare sermons for Lent. The title of this series is Bless the Lent We Actually Have.

Each week we will discuss how we are blessed even though we live in finite bodies and difficult situations. We will conclude each week with a special benediction.

I will also offer a group discussion on Tuesdays at Noon. The resources are free and can be found at <https://katebowler.com/blessthislent/>. If you need a hard copy of the daily material, please contact the office.

May we all draw closer to God as we explore our blessings in the midst of our doubts, questions, and struggles.

In Christ,

Pastor Laura





Supper Club will meet to hand out new group assignments on **Wednesday, February 8th at 6PM**. This will not be a full dinner, just some yummy desserts. If you can bring a dessert please let Dave Gohn know. We're also excited to offer "Lunch Club" if you would rather join a group that goes out for lunch instead of dinner. If you're interest in either club please contact Brooke **no later than Tuesday, February 7th**.

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

The UMM will host a Valentine's Meal on Tuesday, February 14th at 6:00PM. The menu is pork loin, bakes asparagus, potatoes and gravy, salad, and dessert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex, or you can email/call Brooke to sign up.



**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**



There will be a Shrove Tuesday meal Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00PM. Please call Brooke if you want to sign up, there will also be sign up sheets in the Narthex.

Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30 PM

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*
ECCLESIASTES 3:20

SIGN UP

The next Senior Lunch will be hosted here at the church, Friday February 24th at 12:00PM. The Adult Ministries team will provide a ham, and the rest will be a "potluck" meal. Contact Dave Gohn for signups.



The next round of bowling will be **Thursday, February 9th** at 6:30PM. This is open to all our members, come out and have a good time if you're able.



Funeral services for Ms. Connie Snow will be Saturday February 11th at 11am, visitation is immediately before beginning at 10am. Please keep the family of Ms. Pat Boozer and Ms. Connie Snow in your thoughts & prayers.

OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Laura will be out of office next week for Bishop School. Please call Brooke or Mark Sari if there is something you need during this time.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Family of Pat Boozer
- Family of Connie Snow
- Griffin Family
- Scott/Stephanie Smith
- Betty Hodges
- Betty Heacker
- Mariean Northrup
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Gene Hunter
- Ed & Carolyn Hudson
- Everett Burroughs
- Bill Brattain
- (Marsha Witbeck's cousin)
- Bill Fleury
- Angie Heinz
- Rex Riddle
- Sandy Richardson
- Christy Richardson
- Arawana
- Bill Reither
- Sam Crawford
- All Homebound Members



February 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | 1 UMM 7A Bible Study 9:30A | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 WOW 5:30P | 7 Women's Bible Study 9:30A Jenky's 10A Circle #2 7P | 8 UMM 7A Supper Club Meeting 6P | 9 Knitters 10A Bowling 6:30P | 10 | 11 Funeral Service Ms. Connie Snow Visitation 10A Service 11A |
| 12 | 13 WOW 5:30P | 14 Women's Bible Study 9:30A Valentine's Dinner 6P | 15 UMM 7A Bible Study 9:30A 5:30P | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 WOW 5:30P | 21 Women's Bible Study 9:30A Shrove Tues. Dinner 6P UWF Board 6:30P | 22 UMM 7A Bible Study 9:30A Ash Weds Service 6:30P | 23 Knitters 10A | 24 Senior Lunch At Church 12P | 25 |
| 26 | 27 WOW 5:30P | 28 Women's Bible Study 9:30A | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #f8d7da;"> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship</p> </div> | | | |



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 4 Midge Hickman | 19 Marla Wilkinson | 27 Malissa |
| 4 Susie Roberts | 21 Chris White | Heriot |
| 5 Homer Hunt | 22 Dale Griffin | 28 Liz Wild |
| 8 Parker Harding | 23 Vicky Edwards | |
| 15 Frankie Moore | 25 Alison Davis | |
| 18 Jerry Jackson | 26 Lynn Wallace | |