

LENT

Warwick Weekly

2/7/16
Transfiguration Sunday

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

New Message Series for Lent

This week we wrap up our message series answering some of the big questions of why we do what we do as a church. Today, we focus on Worship and Communion. Next week, we start an series for Lent where we will draw near to the cross and listen carefully to the words of Jesus. The series is called "I heard him say..." Join us.

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

When is Lent?

It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from February 10 (Ash Wednesday) to March 27 (Easter), 2016.

So the real beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday?

Yes. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and re-turn our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, usually a minister or priest marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

Why ashes?

In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from?

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them. It's symbolic.

See page 4 to read more . . .

Charge Conference: There will be a special Charge Conference which has been called by our District Superintendent on February 11th at 7pm in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this called Charge Conference is to finalize our 2016 budget.



Today is Souper Bowl of Caring:

Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth movement across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in communities at the time of the Super Bowl football game. Everyone is invited to stand in solidarity with our youth who are participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to raise funds for THRIVE Peninsula's food ministry. Stationed at the door of each service as people exit will be youth with large soup pots collecting a special offering for THRIVE Peninsula, a local ministry that supports those in need in our area. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 and collect 250 non-perishable food items. You can also order food items on-line to be sent directly to THRIVE. Visit our website or Facebook page to find out how. We hope you also joined us today in wearing your favorite sports jersey to church as a means of showing your fan support (nicely of course). In church, we are really all on the same team, God's team.

Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service:

Join us on Wednesday, February 10th, beginning at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for our mission dinner to benefit the 2016 Red Bird Mission Trip and then at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service.

Lenten "Thursday Trinity Time":

Starting on February 11th, our pastors invite you to explore a form of encounter with God called contemplative prayer. We will learn about and practice different types of prayer during weekly gatherings we calling Trinity Time. The hour long gatherings start at noon in room 20. See page 5 for more details

WHAT NOT TO MISS . . .



Children’s Fellowship Field Trip

Today, the M&M’s will be going bowling from 2pm to 4pm. Families are invited and can meet at the church about 1:15 to leave by 1:30. We may need to car poo, so if you can help, please let Sharon know 872-8495.



Easter Egg Hunt - Save the Date

Rain or shine, Saturday, March 26th 10am to noon. Crafts, food, candy, eggs & gifts! For all to enjoy including fellowship time for parents who wish to stay and enjoy the fun. All children are invited up to 5th grade. The youth are invited to come and help. Invite your friends and come and enjoy some Easter Fun!



Rescheduled to Saturday, March 12th starting at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$32 and is a Fundraiser for Redbird Mission. Sorry, no childcare available. Visit our website to learn more. **One space is still available** and we will take a waiting list, so let Zena know if you would like to participate and be notified if a space becomes available.
warwick.memorial@wmumc.org or 877-2270

LAST WEEK’S NUMBERS . . .

Attendance 1/31/16

8:30am - 90
9:00am - 115
11:15am - 94
Total Worship Attendance: 303
Sunday School Attendance: 155



Our infant and toddler nurseries (Room 25 and 26) are open during worship, Sunday School, and many scheduled events. We offer professionally trained staff for children birth through age 4. Please ask a greeter, usher or pastor for directions to the nursery. Please do not use the nursery if your child is sick or running a fever, in consideration of the other children and families. Childcare is provided as part of our ministry and there is no fee.



Upward Basketball Skill Clinic Coming February 21st 9am to 11:30am
See page 5 for more details

Children and Youth Groups . . .

We have Sunday Evening Groups that meet from 5:45pm to 7:30pm. All young people, from preschool to grade 12, are welcome! Dinner is provided for each group. No pre-signup needed. Enter through the educational hallway each Sunday! (a.k.a. the middle doors)

The Jesus And Me Time kids (3, 4 and 5 year olds) will meet in the Kindergarten Room (Rm 27). For more information, contact Bonnie Turner at 877-0551 or bturner113@verizon.net. **(This Sunday is Lunch with the Pastors after worship to 1:30pm)**

The M&M’s (1st to 5th grade) will meet in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Sharon Ellis at 872-8495 or cutygrgal@yahoo.com **(This Sunday is Bowling - see note to the left)**

The Youth (6th to 12th grade) will meet in the youth room. For more information, contact John Evans at 877-5905 or john_evans@verizon.net.

Dinner is provided for each group.

Sunday School Forms Faith of Kids.

During Sunday School, the children (PreK-5th) earn ‘Bible Bucks’ as part of an incentive program to get the kids more actively involved. Bible Bucks are earned by learning the bible verse, bringing in a bible connection (1-2 sentences about how they saw the situation or lesson they are learning about in their own lives), doing an act of kindness, following class rules and a few other fun things teachers may throw in.

Also, the kids’ classes (3 &4 year olds to 5th grade), will continue to gather together in the Celebration Center at 10:10 for a short video and music time before returning to their Sunday School classrooms. Here are the themes for upcoming lessons:

Bible verse- “Come, follow me,” Jesus said.
Matthew 4:19

- Feb 7 Jesus calls the fishermen
- Feb 14 Jesus calls Levi
- Feb 21 Go two by two
- Feb 28 Women follow Jesus



THINGS OF INTEREST . . .

Youth Selling Valentines: The Youth are offering “Valentines” for you to share with your Sweetie or just someone you want to show you care. Please see their booth in the hallway or near one of the services to be sure to support the youth, your sweetie, or that someone special who makes Warwick Memorial a better place. The Valentines will be delivered to any service, any classroom or in between during church on February 14th - Valentine’s Day!



PORT

Winter Shelter Program

We will host PORT from March 2nd

to the 9th: PORT is a program in our area that works with partner churches to offer overnight shelter and food to homeless men, women and children during the winter months from November through March. We need your help! Contact Jim King, facility manager, (facility@wmumc.org) if you have an interest to serve. We have many different areas of need. Don’t delay and miss out on a blessing to serve those in need at this time of the year.

“Come one, Come all and get your Blessing. It will cost you nothing but of your time”



Red Bird Mission Team

of 40 people will attend the Work Camp located near Beverly, Kentucky from Sunday July 31 to Saturday, August 6, 2016 for the purpose

of repairing homes in local Appalachia area and the Red Bird Mission facilities. You are invited to be a member of the team. Costs for travel, insurance, materials, and minor expenses are covered by fund raising activities. The participants’ fee for adult, youth, and children 10 years and older is \$375.00 for meals and lodging in cabins. The fee for children ages 5 through 9 years is \$187.50. There is no fee for younger children. There is the possibility of rising 10th graders to be able to attend camp without their family attending. Team is hosting the Ash Wednesday Dinner on February 10th and other fund raising activities will occur during the year. If you have an interest in participating in this mission in any way, then please contact Jim Corliss at (757) 877-4668 in the evening, (757) 810-1679 during the day, or by sending a message to jascorliss@cox.net.

An Update on the Proposal for An Associate Pastor

Correction to Cost for Associate Pastor Position

Last week, our leadership team began a time of discernment for our congregation to consider additional giving to expand our church staff to include an associate pastor who would assist with leadership in mission and ministry. This position is proposed to help us live into goals of expanding our hands-on mission work, growing in numbers, especially families with children and youth, and in growing spiritually that we might be equipped to further carry out our church mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. During our Ripple Effect time today in each service, we will hear more about the need for this position.

Upon further research it has been determined that the cost for the Associate Pastor position for the last six months of 2016 will not exceed \$27,736. This will provide \$17,500 for salary, \$7,500 for housing, and \$2,736 for the Clergy Retirement Security Program and the Comprehensive Protection Plan.

Thank you for your prayerful discernment on this goal as we move forward.

Lenten Study Beginning February 14th : You are invited to join us this Lenten season to know Jesus more deeply as we reflect on the “seven last words from the cross.” Join us for a small group study gathering at church on Sundays from 5:30 to 7:30pm beginning February 14th and running through March 20th. Room #10 is the place to be.

Pastor Gina and Peggy Langille, our Minister for Church Growth and Congregational Life, will facilitate this conversation using a highly acclaimed book by Bishop William Willimon, entitled “Thank God It’s Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross.”

Christ’s seven last words from the cross have long been a source of reflection, challenge, and soul-searching. These simple statements contain the full range of human emotions and divine self-revelation: grief, compassion, despair, forgiveness, physical need, the promise of redemption. In many ways they embody the core of the gospel. In this brief book one of today’s most noted church leaders confronts the reader with the seven last word’s claim on her or his life. Written with the clarity, depth, and insight that are Willimon’s trademark, this book offers afresh the challenge and grace of the message of the Crucified One. This study will parallel the pastors’ sermon series, but will contain expanded content and opportunity for discussion and deeper reflections.

Children/youth preschool to high school can attend our Sunday program during this same time. A nursery will be available for smaller children and infants. However, if you need nursery childcare, please let the church office know in advance. All are welcome. The cost of the book is \$11.

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Why “DO” Lent? How do I start?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to “repent” — to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

FASTING: Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, tv, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some activity, like worry or reality tv to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or “fast” from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

SERVICE: Some Christians take something on for Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

PRAYER: Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. Visit The Upper Room Living Prayer Center to request a prayer, pray for others, or try one or two new prayer practices.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

Special 2016 Mission Lenten/Easter Offering

Focus: Each year our leadership targets an area for our church to consider “second mile” mission giving (which means beyond our average tithing) as an avenue of sacrifice during the Lenten/Easter seasons. This offering enables us to passionately direct gifts toward God's work of transforming and healing the world. Last year our focus was Imagine No Malaria. This year's focus is aimed at broadening our support of Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief ministry that was birthed through the United Methodist Church. A few weeks ago, nearly 200 volunteers packaged 20,066 meals for the hungry. The excitement in this effort and the movement of the Spirit among us has led us to hope to package more meals in 2016. By setting aside extra and/or through sacrificing during Lent, we can help bridge the hunger gap at a cost of just 29 cents per serving. One in nine people on the planet are malnourished and one in five children suffer from daily hunger. With focus on hunger since year 2000, these numbers are actually improving. Join with us this season, to STOP HUNGER NOW! You can designate gifts through your offering envelopes or through your Lenten or Easter envelopes by writing in Stop Hunger Now on the memo line of your check in the offering. May God bless us in this effort to help those in great need!



TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, go to The Upper Room's prayer wall and pray for another person. Join Pastor Bert for Trinity Time on Thursdays at noon in room 20. (See page 5)
8. Go deeper into the Bible. Try a daily practice of reading a section from the Bible, perhaps a particular book or number of chapters, or try a reading plan on the You Version Bible App (free).
7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.) Study a book on forgiveness, such as Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey.
6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Let Juliana's Ice Cream Fast (google it) inspire you to give up some food or drink as a way to grow closer to God. Give the money you save to help feed people through our Lenten Special Offering for Stop Hunger Now.
5. Create a daily quiet time. Try spending 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.
4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice and pray each day with your camera in your hand (see image below).
2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local mission such as THRIVE Peninsula, Five Loaves Food Pantry or our Upcoming PORT service to our homeless neighbors.
1. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work. Download the Nimbus Prayer app and pray as you go through your day.

Glorify God with Flowers this Lent

During the seasons of Lent and Easter (2/14 to 5/8/16), you have an opportunity to place a flower arrangement on the Sanctuary Altar. The bulletin will note that you are giving glory and honor to God and either celebrating or remembering beloved people or events. This is not available on Easter Sunday or Communion Sundays. To learn more or sign up, please visit our website for the link to sign up for flowers or contact the church office at 877-2270. The cost is \$40 and the deadline is by Wednesday before the Sunday you request.

Expand your Spirit Through Prayer . . .

Lenten Contemplative Prayer Time, Join us on Wednesdays at noon.

Prayer is critical to our spiritual life and Lent offer a great time to connect with God in powerful ways and explore new practices. It is also very much needed as we enter an important time in the life of our church. While we are discerning our future locally, our denomination will soon make important decisions May 10-20, 2016 at our UM General Conference in Portland, OR. You can be part of the prayer for conference by visiting 60daysofprayer.org and sign up to received daily prayer meditation for the 60 days before conference.

Starting on February 11th, our pastors invite you to explore a form of encounter with God called contemplative prayer. We will learn about and practice different types of prayer during weekly gatherings we are calling **Trinity Time**. The hour long gatherings start at noon in room 20. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Bert.

Join Pastor Bert in attending the **Bishop's Convocation on Prayer** on Saturday, March 5, at Trinity UMC, 903 Forest Ave., Richmond. The theme is "Deepening Discipleship: Piety and Mercy through Prayer." The main speaker will be Frederick Schmidt who is an Episcopal Priest, spiritual director, retreat facilitator, conference leader, and writer. His latest work is "The Dave Test" which received 4.6 stars on amazon and has been called a "must read" for anyone who wants to walk in faith while suffering a loss. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Please sign up with Zena in the office by February 22 if you would like to attend.

The Upper Room launches **Prayer App Nimbus** as a global prayer community. Download the app and pray with the world for topics important to you. We are stronger when we are connected in prayer. You can download it on your IOS device and it is coming soon to android. Once you have it, search for 'Warwick Memorial UMC' and connect with our prayer life. Or visit, nimbusprayer.com

A Saturday Prayer Before Worship

Prepare our hearts, O Lord,
to join together with your whole congregation
to praise and serve you.
Reveal your presence to all who will gather
in adoration and self-offering.
To those who cannot for good reason
go gladly into your house,
give your strength and consolation,
that they may know of the concerns
of their community of faith.
Make us receptive to your word for us,
and enable us to know and do your will.
Bind your people together in
a shared faith, a common witness,
and compassionate service to the world;
through Jesus our Savior. Amen.



Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church Honors 2016 Upward Basketball Players

Join us on Sunday, February 21st at 9am to 11:30am
In the Warwick Memorial UMC's Celebration Center Gym



All 2016 Upward Basketball Players are invited and all children up to 7th grade!

You Don't Want to Miss this Free Event.

Everyone is invited to attend worship at Warwick Memorial United Methodist's Lampstand Service at 9am.

Players, volunteers and coaches are encouraged to wear their Upward jerseys or volunteer/coach shirts. All Upward players attending will receive an honors gift and have a special recognition during the worship service.

Immediately following worship, there will be a free snack time for all players and their families, and then all players will participate in a fun, skills clinic led by Coach ShaVohn Curley.

Your Guide to the Latest at WMUMC . .

Today**Souper Bowl Sunday**

8:30am Sanctuary Service
 9:00am The Lampstand Service (CC)
 11:15am Sanctuary Service
 12pm JAM Time Kids Lunch (Rm 28)
 2pm Children's Fellowship Bowling Trip
 4:30pm Laudamus Te Ringers Rehearsal
 5pm NI Youth Choir Rehearsal
 5:30pm & 8pm AA (Rm 20)
 5:45pm NO Youth Fellowship
 5:45pm Financial Peace (Rm 28) (please note room change)

Monday 2.8

10am PAA
 6pm Upward Practice (CC)
 6:30pm Scouts
 7pm Praise Choir Rehearsal
 7:30pm Praise and Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday 2.9

10am PAA (Rm. 27)
 12pm Deadline for Warwick Weekly submissions
 6pm Upward Practice (CC)
 6:30pm United Methodist Men Meeting (FH)
 7pm No Brothers of Christ (Rm 28)
 7pm NO Men's Fraternity (Rm 10)
 7:30pm Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal

Wednesday 2.10

9am TOPS (Rm 10)
 4:15pm Cherub Choir
 4:45pm Junior Choir
 5:25pm Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal
 6:30pm Mission Lunch (FH)
 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
 7pm NO Lampstand Band Rehearsal (CC)
 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 8pm Spanish AA (Rm 20)

Thursday 2.11

10am PAA (Rm 27)
 12pm Lenten "Thursday Trinity Time" Prayer Group (Rm 20)
 7pm Called Charge Conference (Sanctuary)

Friday 2.12

7pm-7am Youth Lock In (CC)

Saturday 2.13

9am Special Olympics (CC)
 11am Upward Games (CC)
 5pm Cup Scouts Parents Night Out (FH)
 6pm AA (Rm 20)

For complete calendar please visit the website at wmumc.org and contact Jim King at facility@wmumc.org for room availability and reservations.

Deadline for Warwick Weekly submissions is Tuesday at 12 noon

ME
PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Morning Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, as morning dawns, be our light in this new day. Let our lives reflect your glory, our words show forth your goodness, and our actions shine with your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, as evening comes, be our light and hope in darkness. Draw near to us in grace, surround us with your presence, and fill us with your peace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Please pray for those in the hospital or care

facility: Fran Shaffer (Mennowood), Ginny Masters, Jane Guthrie (St. Francis), Beth Welch (Candlewood Suites), Thyreese Blake (Frank Blake's mother), Eugene Wingo (Warwick Rehab), Marie Williams (Warwick Forest)

Please pray for those who are at home:

Marguerite Proffitt, Jane Goetz, Chris Ployd, Jewel Stalnaker, Julia Frank, Kathy Young, Walt Wilkerson, Beverly Mayeaux, Christina Tanner, Bob Warthan, Ruth McGhee, Bertam Ellett, Helen Brady, Carol Lett, Cathy Osborne, Sonny Wood, Lucento Family, Denise Workinger, Chandler (Dave and Barbara Amaker's Goddaughter), Laurie Lasher, Bea Kiehner, Tim Claus, Jessica Margocs, Lance Scnesny, Chase Watkins, Dean Townsend, Pat Hodges, Shaun Kelley, Bob and Ruth Ritenour

Please pray for those who have passed away:

Ann Woodward, February 3, 2016

Please contact the church office with concerns so the Pastors can be notified. Please let us know if you would like for the concern to be on the church email prayer list also.

United Methodist Men will have their dinner and meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to attend, call Gene Osborne at 875-1183 to RSVP.



Warwick Memorial UMC

38 Hoopes Road, Newport News, VA 23602

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH