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Crusader

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Vol. 78, No. 3 ~ February 6, 2024



Feb 11, 2024

Message by Pastor Greg Fitch

“Better Choices”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:19

Feb 18, 2024

Message by Pastor Martha-Jean Fitch

“Dereliction of Duty”

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

Worship will be in-person and on Facebook Live at 10am

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Convicted – Who is the Guilty?

Step into the courtroom each week of Lent with our new sermon series: *Convicted*. Each service puts a different biblical character from the story of Christ's passion and death, on trial, accused of an actual crime. We will ask if we would be convicted of those charges ourselves? And learn more of God's grace for all.



Thursday, Feb. 8th
9:00 Staff meeting
10:30 Disciples Women Council

Sunday, Feb. 11th
8:40 Coffee House Theology Sunday
School
9:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Worship
11:30 Disciples Sunday School
Disciples Women Candy Sale

Monday, Feb. 12th
6:00 Council
7:00 Elders

Wednesday, Feb. 14th
9:30 Women's Lenten Series
3:00 Worship at Hawthorne Inn
6:30 Ash Wednesday service
7:30 Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 15th
9:00 Staff meeting
2:00 Worship at Knox County Nursing
Home
5:30 Men's Night Out
5:30 Ladies' Night Out

Sunday, Jan. 21st
8:40 Coffee House Theology Sunday
School
9:30 Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Worship
11:30 Disciples Sunday School

... for the **Hagan family: Debbie, John, Wyatt and Johnnie**, as they grieve for their loss of father and grandfather Bob Hook. May God comfort them and bring them great peace.

... for the family of **Karen Thomas (Jan Unger's sister)** who passed away on February 1. A visitation will be from **5-7pm Thursday, Feb 8** at Watson Thomas Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at **10am Friday** at the funeral home.

... for **Dixie Davis-Sharp** who is in the hospital at OSF St. Mary's.

... for **Raeleen Brown** who is at home, recovering from a recent surgery.

... for **Mary Gehring, Jimmy Ellis, Pam Whittom, and Kim Barton's father, Eddie**, in their cancer treatments.
... for the health and well-being of **Dr. Gene and Sue Johnson**.

... for the health and well-being of **Janet Christiansen**.

... for New City Church, Mbandaka, Congo.

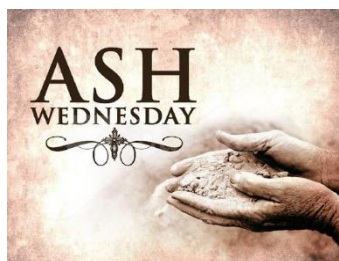


SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART

Disciple Women will be selling homemade chocolates on **February 11th**. A package of chocolates will cost \$5 and the profits will be used for our Disciple Mission pledge. They will be sold in The Gathering Place during fellowship hour and after service. ~ **Jan Luallen**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – FEB 14

Join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service, in the sanctuary and Facebook Live on **Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30pm**. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent of preparation for the six weeks of Lent that includes times of reflection, remembrance and repentance. During the service, we will go to court as we look at the case against Jesus' disciples on the charge of defamation of character. We will listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of the charge of defamation of character against those for whom Christ died?"



COMMUNITY WOMAN'S LENTEN SERIES

Women in the community will gather in our Fellowship Hall on six Wednesdays of Lent, **Feb. 14 to March 20, at 9:30am** for a time of worship, with guest speakers from the community. This year's theme is "*Words that Last Forever*". The schedule is:
Feb. 14 – "*Forgive Them*" – Rhonda Flack – Luke 23:34
Feb. 21 – "*Today in Paradise*" – Pastor Linda Mowrer – Luke

23:43

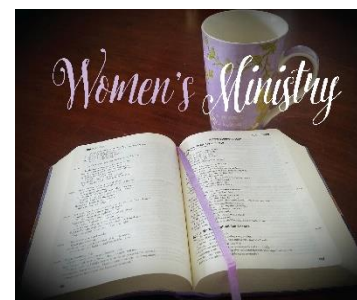
Feb 28 – "*Why Forsaken?*" – Rhonda McCracken – Mark 15:34

March 6 – "*Behold Your Son*" – Pastor Dorothy Lam – John 19:26

March 13 – "*I Am Thirsty*" – Rev. Deb Epley – John 19:28

March 20 – "*It is Finished*" – Rev. Carrie Carnes – John 19:30

All women are invited to attend this inspirational series. Each session will also be streamed on Facebook Live if you are unable to attend.



NAOMI CIRCLE BIBLE STUDY FEB. 20

All women are invited to participate in the Naomi Circle Bible Study which is held every month on the **3rd Tuesday at 10am** in the Conference Room. The next one is **Tuesday, Feb. 20**. We are studying "*Loved by God*" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

LADIES NIGHT OUT FEB. 15

Ladies Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, Feb. 15** at Jimmy's Pizza. All ladies from the church are invited to attend. Come join the fun!



MEN'S NIGHT OUT FEB. 15

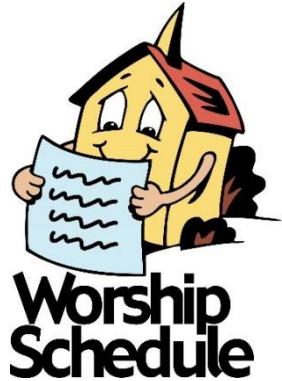
Men's Night Out will be at **5:30pm Thursday, Feb. 15** at Pizza Ranch. All men of the church are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and a brief devotional. Everybody pays their own way

REQUEST FOR ESL (English second language) VOLUNTEERS

ESL (English second language) volunteers are needed to help tutor students; no training is needed. Currently, students are from mainly Congo or Angola, but there have been students from Brazil, China, and Japan in the past. Most of the students work at Tyson or Farmland on the night shift, however, a current student owns a grocery store on Henderson street in Galesburg. There are two students who are taking a placement class at Carl Sandburg College and one who graduated and now works for OSF. Google Translate can be installed on your phone so you can help students with words they don't understand. It is actually very rewarding to see how fast they learn

We meet from 10:30-noon every Thursday and Friday at Covenant Church on Dayton and Jefferson streets. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, call or text Dave Farber at (309) 368-1485.





WORSHIP SERVING SCHEDULE

Feb 11 – Diaconate Serving: Brenda Fell and Jan Unger
Lead in Communion: Neill Unger

Offering Message: Pastor

Prayers: Carolyn Spratt

Greeters: Brenda Fell and Jan Unger at North St.; Marge Patterson at Broad St.; Sharon Carnes at canopy door

Feb 18 – Diaconate Serving: Kim and Aaron Barton

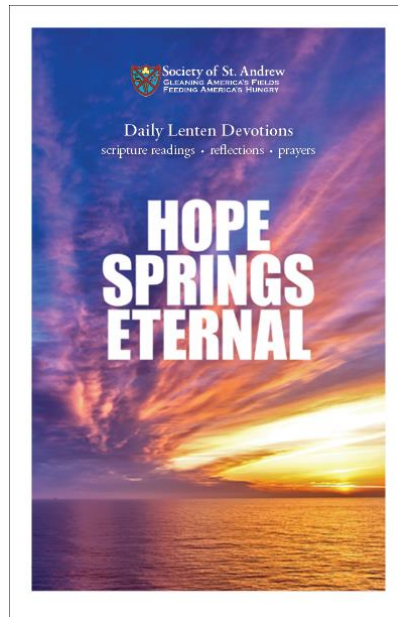
Lead in Communion: Jan Luallen

Offering Message: Chris Mowrer

Prayers: Pastor

Greeters: Aaron and Kim Barton at North St.; Leslie Wilt at Broad St.; Jan Unger at canopy door

Elders Serving Out: Neill Unger and Jan Unger



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: “HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL”

With everything going on in the world today, we need reminders and reflections of God’s hope around us. This year’s Lenten devotional booklet is titled “*Hope Springs Eternal*” to help you daily on your journey. The writers of these offerings read and prayed about Lamentations 3:25: “*The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him.*”

These devotions were written to feed your spiritual hunger and inspire you to recognize and thank God for your own story of hope. While using the tools of prayer, self-examination, confession, and repentance, and reading “*Hope Springs Eternal*,” we gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of what Jesus did for us and how that gives us hope today.

In each devotional booklet, you will find daily meditations, prayers, and personal stories of growth that illustrate how God speaks to people through a variety of life experiences.

Be sure to pick up a booklet located on the table outside The Gathering Place by the North Street door.



WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

February 18 and 25
GIFTS TO LIVE ON

*[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had **to live on.**” - Luke 21: 1 - 4*

Week of Compassion’s work rests in core values of accompaniment, community and integrity – not only when it flows easily, but especially in times of crisis.

Alongside global partners, Week of Compassion is expanding education for girls, bringing GIFTS TO LIVE ON in rural Afghanistan, communities that are marginalized and vastly underserved. Partners envision education centers, teacher training, parent and community councils, playgrounds, and school supply distribution, reaching more than 13,000 in outlying communities.

Disciples have always been clear: When needs arise, we need to respond ... we need to be moved; we need to be generous; we need to be faithful; we need to be transformed. When we give, we know that our gifts are not the only ones that matter – the true gift of compassion and connection lies in the resilience of the communities we serve. GIFTS TO LIVE ON live in the dreams of eager and bright girls going to school in Afghanistan.

You can give your gift at weekofcompassion.org OR bring your offering to worship, where an offering envelope will be available; or mail your offering to the church.

TRUSTEES will meet at 6:30pm on Monday, Feb. 19th



Dear Church Family – Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, and calls during my recent surgery and recovery. And a special thank you to the Stecher men who came and picked up my tree limbs. It was ALL very much appreciated! – Carolyn Spratt