



Connections

Christ United Methodist Church

Weekly Newsletter

February 22, 2012

We are about
relationships. . .
with Christ,
with one another,
and with God's
hurting world.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am Riverbend Max. Security
Institution-Communion Service
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School



Go to www.christumcfranklin.org
for information on programs
and to hear past sermons.

This week marks the beginning of Lent. It seems like we have just taken down the Advent banners and removed the wreaths from our hearths, but here we are on the doorstep of another, very different holy season. On Wednesday evening we gather for worship, communion and the imposition of ashes. On Sunday we will hear the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, and we'll turn with him toward Jerusalem as he makes his journey to the cross.

Lent is a unique and often difficult season to walk through. It's a season that invites us into self-examination and repentance. We are led to take a long, hard look at ourselves and to name those things that keep us from loving and trusting God. Given the events that have happened in our community and in our world over the past few weeks, we are deeply and painfully aware of our own brokenness and our need for God's mercy and grace. This is part of our Lenten journey.

As we go through this six-week season, we will continue on Sunday mornings hearing from the Gospel of Mark. The lectionary calendar actually moves into the Gospel of John, but our worship team here decided to stick with Mark and to let him continue telling us about Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem. Through Mark's gospel, we will be asking ourselves, "What do we need to turn away from in order to turn toward God?" Each Sunday we'll hear a story that invites us to ask that question in different ways.

In addition to worship on Sunday, there will be lots of opportunities for reflection, prayer and growth during Lent. I'll be teaching a special six-week Sunday School class down in room 109. We'll be looking at the last 24 hours of Jesus' earthly life, based on a study by Adam Hamilton. For those of you not currently involved in a Sunday School class, this might be a good way to explore this season and what it means for you.

The Spiritual Formation Committee is putting together a book table with suggested readings during this season. They'll also have devotional guides for us based on the writings of Henri Nouwen as he reflected on the story of the Prodigal Son.

Lent invites us to find more time in our lives for prayer, silence and reflection. Sometimes, it's hard to find that space in our lives, so on Wednesday nights the Sanctuary will be open after dinner for you to come and pray. Of course, throughout the week the Sanctuary and the Prayer Room (across from the kitchen) are always open for you. Personally, I like the Quiet Room just outside the Sanctuary. You can see the cross and the altar, but you're also enclosed in a quiet space apart from the world.

Often, we think of Lent as a time to "give something up," and that may be just what God is calling you to do. If you find that your hurrying keeps you from God, then you might want to give up driving over the speed limit. If you find yourself preoccupied with food or videogames, you might want to give up snacks or Angry Birds. But whatever practice you choose, it should be about you and your relationship with God. This is a time to open ourselves fully to the loving gaze of God and ask, "How is it with my soul? What is getting between God and me?"

Let's walk through this season together. Call me if you want to talk or pray together. Come to worship on Wednesday and on Sundays. Pick out a book. Read Nouwen's devotional guide every day. Start a new prayer practice. Let us keep a holy Lent. Together.

Carol

WITH CHRIST

Please call or e-mail the church office with additions or changes to the prayer list. Names will appear for four weeks, unless you request they remain longer.

Prayer Concerns

The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues. You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the emailed newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please contact the church office at 790-2112

A more detailed prayer list is found in the Prayer Room (room 202)

Worship This Sunday

February 26, 2012

Scriptures:

Psalm 25:1-10

Attendance

February 19, 2012

Worship: 510

Sunday School: 270

Sunday, February 26, Scripture



Mark 1:9-15

9. In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

11. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12. And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

13. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

15. and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Pick up your Lenten Devotional in the Narthex after the Ash Wednesday Service and Sunday Services.

WITH ONE ANOTHER



This Week at Christ UMC

Sunday, February 26

9:45 am Inquirer's Class
 4:30 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm ORBIT Youth
 6:00 pm Black History Celebration

Monday, February 27

10:00 am Watercolor Class

Tuesday, February 28

3:15 pm ORBIT Outreach

Wednesday, February 29

6:30 am Men's Dialogue
 5:15 pm Wed. Night Together
 6:30 pm Celebration Singers

Thursday, March 1

6:00 pm Room In The Inn
 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry

Friday, March 2

8:00 am Latecomers Men's group
 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
 11:30 am Sewing Guild



Regular Events:

February 24 - Fourth Friday Fun

March 8 - Room In The Inn

March 18 - Lunch Bunch

For information on the young adult ministry contact John Hill at 615.790.2112 or jhill@christum.net

Children & Families

Family Paint-A-Cross

Parents and children: mark this date for a Family Paint-A-Cross event, Wednesday March 7th at 6:30 pm, in room 113. Parents are to attend WITH their children.

Youth Activities

DINNER THEATRE THANK YOU!

On behalf of all our youth, Doug and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for such a wonderful evening. Thanks to everyone who

helped the event go smoothly and thank you to the congregation for your presence & financial support. After our expenses, funds raised came in at a little under \$8,000. This will allow us to proceed with our summer plans and maybe even put a little toward next summer too. Thanks so much!!!



Church Wide Activities

Room In The Inn

Room in the Inn is in need of your help, in **March!** Sign ups are in the Narthex.

Spiritual Gifts Retreat

The Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to learn more about yourself and others by attending this year's Spiritual Gifts Retreat, March 2 - 4, at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Monteagle, TN. Sign-ups are in the Narthex. Call Jan Phelps (Sparkman) or Kathy Cavanaugh for more information. Or sign up online at <http://www.christumcfranklin.org/events/spiritual-gifts-retreat/>

Membership Sunday

Our next Membership Sunday will be February 26th. If you are interested in joining the church with the group, please contact John Hill at jhill@christum.net or 790-2112.

Join Rev. Carol for Lenten Sunday School

During the six weeks of Lent, Rev. Carol will be teaching a Sunday School class based on Adam Hamilton's study entitled "24 Hours That Changed the World." This study will take us through the 24 hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, using the Gospel of Mark as our primary text. We'll meet in Room 109, downstairs near the elevator. All are welcome!

The Sewing Guild will meet on Friday, March 2nd at 11:30 am in the church library. We welcome all with an interest in sewing to gather in fellowship. Contact Kristi Brown at 595-1373 or kab5573@comcast.net with any questions or suggestions.

4th Story West

4th Story West is an experience of living narrative which takes place in the 4th Story Theater at West End UMC on every 4th Friday of the month. Each night a storyteller (the 1st Story) and a songwriter (the 2nd Story) retell a biblical story. These stories lead to other personal and traditional stories (the

3rd Story) and during the second half of the evening participants are invited to share their own stories (the 4th Story) around their tables if they choose. Coffee and snacks will be available. The theme on Feb. 24th will be "Drawing in the Dirt" and will focus on the stillness of the moments where we get to choose between grace or condemnation.



NEW! Ladies, join us for Needlework for Fun, no matter what type of needlework you enjoy. Beginners are welcome to learn to knit or crochet. Or you may have something to share with others. We will meet the 2nd & 4th Thurs. of each month beginning Thurs. Feb. 23, in the Library at 6:30 pm. For more information, contact Pat Heflin 595-5341 or email pinkypat@comcast.net.

A new Inquirer's Class will begin February 26th in Room 201 at 9:45 am. If you are new to the church or interested in membership, we encourage you to attend this 4-week class. Contact John Hill for more details.

Softball Sign-Ups

If you are interested in playing on the church co-ed softball team, please contact Tom Beadles at thomasbeadles@bellsouth.net. Games begin April 13, and the cost is \$25.

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Join us on Thursday, Feb. 23, and bring a friend and a sack lunch if you would like.

Wednesday Night Together

February 29, 2012

Menu: Chef's Salad Bar

Adults: \$6.00 Children: \$4

Family Max: \$20

Please sign up for dinner on the worship pad on Sunday morning, call the church office at 790-2112, Ext. 31, or register online by **noon Monday**. If you would like to be on the standing reservations list, please let the cashier know or call the church office. Thank you!

Activities

Adults: Bible Study with Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon (6:30 pm); Commons (6:15) Women's Bible Study, Room 105 (6:30) Christian Believer, Annex (6:30) Disciple I, Room 102

Youth: Youth Fellowship; Room 209

Children: 6:15-6:45—Mustard Seed Choir 3—preK; Angel Choir K—2; Spirit Singers 3—6 grade.

Childcare for ages 2-under
(6:15-8:00 pm); Room 122



Nonprofit Organization

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Return Service Requested

WITH GOD'S HURTING WORLD



Annual Black History Celebration

February 26th at 6:00 pm

**Christ United Methodist Church
and**

**The Wesley Foundation Campus
Ministry of TSU**

Standing with Hope,

Walking by Faith,

and Living in Love

Please join in this celebration of Black History Month with music, drama, liturgical dance and spoken word to give praise and thanks to God for our historical heritage. We will honor several members of our community who have been living legends among us. A reception will follow the service.

Prison Ministry will be the Ministry Moment on Sunday

Why should anyone care about Prison Ministry? What does Christ UMC Prison Ministry encompass?

The main reason we have Prison Ministry stems from God's charge for his followers to feed the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the sick and visit those in prison (Matt. 25:34-36).

This is a charge we take literally. We conduct Bible study classes behind bars, a weekly Sunday communion service, support re-entry of returning citizens and have a Pen Pal program. Some of us have obtained Volunteer badges and are able to visit and counsel residents. We care because Christ cares.

When someone serves their time and is released (as ~97% of all are), we support their efforts to restart their life by getting a job, finding suitable housing, and acting as a resource when the inevitable challenges of re-entry arise. This will help short-circuit the revolving door of incarceration.

The typical recidivism rate in Tennessee is ~65%. This is far too high and indicates a failure of the system to adequately prepare people for re-entry and society for erecting such high barriers to reentry. The 52 people who have participated in Christ UMC's Prison Ministry program have a remarkable rate of success in the past 5 years only 8 have returned to prison (~15%). Clearly, we are doing something right!

Please join this ministry by writing a pen pal, joining the worship service at Riverbend, helping conduct a class, praying for the ministry and everyone touched by it. It takes about \$1,000 to help get someone back on their feet. Most returning citizens come out with the \$45 the state gives them and not much else. It doesn't take very much to make a huge difference. Be a part of God's Plan by helping Christ UMC Prison Ministry. Contact Jerry Nail 390-1129 for more information, or Karen VanderMolen 224-8022 to become a Pen Pal.

