

Faith Community Church (UMC)

Connections February 2024

Volume: 34 Issue: 2

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” — Mark 8: 31-38

Dear friends,

As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God and with one another. Lent is a time of repentance, renewal and reconciliation. It is also a time to lighten up and laugh a little, because God has a sense of humor.

This year, Lent begins on a special day: Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. This may seem like a practical joke, but it is actually a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of both days. Valentine's Day is not just about chocolates and flowers, but about expressing our love and gratitude to the people who matter most in our lives. Ash Wednesday is not just about ashes and fasting, but about acknowledging our need for God's forgiveness and mercy.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and our repentance. We are reminded that we are dust, and to dust, we will return. We are reminded that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to die for us and to rise again. We are adorned with the symbol of the cross, the symbol of God's love and salvation. And we are also marked with the sign of a heart, the symbol of Valentine's Day. Well, not really, but wouldn't that be cute?

On Valentine's Day, we give gifts and cards to our loved ones as a sign of our affection and appreciation. We are not alone, we have people who care and support us. God is the source of all love, and he calls us to love him and love one another. And don't forget, chocolate is good for the soul, especially during Lent. Well, not really, but wouldn't that be "sweet"?

Let us make this Lent a time of spiritual growth and transformation, a time to deepen our faith and our love. And let us also make this Lent a time of humor and happiness, a time to enjoy God's gifts and God's jokes. To discover what we are to be up to as we are lifted by God to flights of joy and release of sin.

May you get up to something good, for the sake of a deeply meaningful life, and for the sake of good in the world.

Pastor Coleen

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES FEBRUARY

East Winds Day of Prayer and Healing

February 1, 2024
starting at 12:00pm to
February 2, 2024
ending at 12:00pm.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper at Owosso First UMC

Tuesday, February 13,
2024 from 5-7pm at
Owosso First UMC,
1500 N Waters St,
Owosso.

Adults \$8, \$3 for kids
under 10.

See next page for
flyers and information
regarding these
events.

Upcoming Sermons:

Bread, Bath and Beyond Series

2/4: Beyond the Chaos
Is 40:21-31, Ps 147:1-11,
20c, Mark 1:29-39

2/11: Beyond the Fear
2 Cor 4: 3-6, Psalm 50:
1-6, Mark 9: 2-9

What R U UP 2?

2/14: Store Up
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

2/18: Come Up
Mark 1: 9-15

A Day of Prayer and Healing

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens.
This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.
(1st Thessalonians 5: 16-18, The Message)

You are being invited to share in a day of prayer for the East Winds District.

Beginning on February 1st at 12:00 pm and continuing for 24 hours, ending on February 2nd at 12:00 pm, we will be asking you to pray with us.

There will be four six-hour themes for prayer.

February 1, 2024 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

A time of prayer for those who are ill in body or spirit, those who are injured, those who are managing chronic conditions, and those who are being asked to make life changing decisions as a result of physical or mental limitations.

February 1, 2024 6:00 pm - 12:00 am

A time of prayer for our faith communities as we begin a new era for United Methodists, our nation, our state, our district and our local churches.

February 2, 2024 12:00 am - 6:00 am

A time of prayer for all of God's children, including our family members, our neighbors, and the strangers among us.

February 2, 2024 6:00 am - 12:00 pm

A time of prayer for lives lived in harmony and peace as we celebrate the blessed gifts of who we are and whose we are.

Marysville UMC (East), Chesaning UMC (West), Hayes UMC (North) and Lake Orion UMC (South) have been chosen as host sites for those who wish to pray in person during the first time segment.

The District will be hosting a virtual site for prayer between 6:00 pm on February 1st and 6:00 am on February 2nd. We ask that you pray wherever you are between 6:00 am and 12:00 pm on February 2nd.

February 2024

Music Prelude:
Sue Hammond

Greeter: Bill A

Liturgist:

Meet and Greet:

2/4 – Simple Spread

2/11 –

2/18 – Potluck

2/24 –

Flowers: Opportunity

2/4 –

2/11 –

2/18 –

2/24 –

Food Box: Ellen

FAT TUESDAY



You Are Invited!

Tuesday, Feb. 13 @ 5-7 pm

\$8 adults; \$3 kids under 10

First United Methodist Church

1500 N. Water St., Owosso

Call 989-725-2201 for info



No Anniversaries



Shelly Nyquist – 2/25

**Pastor Coleen will schedule future Worship Committee
Missions meeting dates TBA.**



Welcome to a new take on Lent. Instead of the idea of “giving up something” you love (such as chocolates, carbs or phone), I’d like for you to consider “**getting up to something**” for the sake of something you love.

Being “**up to something**” doesn’t have to be anything big, or life-changing, or unnecessarily piled onto an already-busy schedule. To be “**up to something**” may be simply raising our awareness of what is important, what is precious, what is necessary for a life that feels gratifying. It can also mean raising our awareness of those things that don’t feel life-giving and giving them **up “for good.”**

We ask our friends, “what are you up to these days?” It is a playful question when we ask it this way. “Up to” sounds a little sneaky. Of course, the snarky response to the question “**what are you up to**” is “oh, about 5’5”!” We are a measuring kind of species. How tall? How accomplished? How important? How popular? But in this Lent season, being “**up to something**” isn’t about “**measuring up.**” It is quite the opposite. It is important that we ourselves define what is worth our heightened attention — not try to reach some height that someone else set for us.

As with Advent, there will be a daily journal for Lent. They will be at the communication table starting on Ash Wednesday.



JOYS

Krista's granddaughter turned 1 this month, Peggy thanked everyone for the help in her classroom, travel safety those flying to be with family and friends, Visitors and family joining us, Game night was fun even with low attendance, Bonnie was back in church, excitement of getting snow even if just a dusting, Wanda shared that after 80 days of being in hospital Maximillion Walasek should be on his way home Monday (1/22/24).

CONCERNS

Family members, Church family, and friends who are dealing with health issues, surgeries, and procedures who need healing, Nancy who has been the hospital, The Homeless with weather changing, School shootings, Natural Disasters, unrest and fighting around the world, and Any unspoken requests.

Vision for Faith Community Church

From September to January, members of our congregation have taken part in collaborative meetings to discover the values and mission of FCC. Everyone in our congregation was asked to participate in initial meetings and then those results were narrowed down and fine-tuned by the Leadership Group. There was palpable excitement in the room on our final day with our consultant, Gary Step.

Our values were identified as: Faith, Grace, Community and Love.

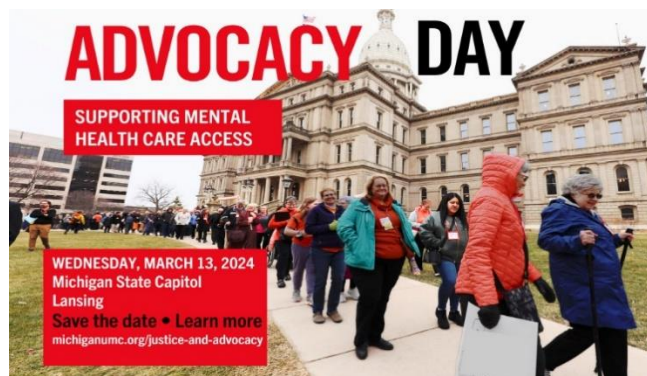
Our mission statement, which will be on all our media, is

“Serving our neighbors in the footsteps of Jesus.”

We are going to be upfront with everyone. This will be a time of change. The Ad Board have all agreed to moving forward and outward in all aspects of church life. We do this for 2 main reasons. First and foremost, to make and grow disciples for Jesus. Second, we want FCC to be a part of this community for decades to come. Gary identified key factors he’s seen as common and contributory to dying churches. We are looking to ensure that’s not us.

In the next 3 months we will be identifying people to join committees in fine tuning areas of “Branding”/Communications, Physical building updating inside and outside, Worship and Missions. We are looking for creative people, organized people, “I just want to be a part” people.

We welcome questions and ideas from everyone. We will be open to hearing from people if a change in direction may be puzzling and challenging and we will explain why we are going in a certain direction. We truly want everyone to feel part of our new community of faith.



Did you know that over 1.4 million adults in Michigan have a mental health condition? Did you know that 57.8% of Michiganders aged 12 to 17 living with depression did not receive any care in the last year? Did you also know that many Michiganders do not receive needed mental health care because of cost or not having access to resources or professionals? Pastor Coleen is on the team to organize this day at the Capitol and will share more information during Community Moments in worship.

<https://michiganumc.org/register-now-for-advocacy-day-2024/>

If you would like to become more involved in church activities and/or committees and have questions, please see Pastor Coleen.



February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Men's Breakfast 7:00 am cooking 8:00 am eating
4 Worship 10:00 am <i>Communion</i> Sunday School 11:15 am	5	6 <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00 pm	7	8 7 p.m. – Ad Council	9	10
11 Worship 10:00 am <i>Noisy Change</i> Sunday School 11:15 am	12	13 <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00 pm	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Lent Begins</i>	15 7 p.m. – Ad Council	16	17 5 p.m. – Dinner & Game Night @ Jimmie Carroll's house
18 Worship 10:00 am <i>Potluck 11:15 am</i>	19	20 <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00 pm	21	22	23	24
24 Worship 10:00 am <i>Noisy Change</i> Sunday School 11:15 am	25	26 <i>Choir Practice</i> 7:00 pm	27	28	29	



FACE BOOK PAGE

CHECK OUT FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH'S PAGE BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW (IT'S RECOMMENDED THAT YOU HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT AND BE LOGGED IN). ONCE THERE, LOOK FOR THE SEARCH BAR BUTTON (WITH THE EYEGLASS) NEAR THE UPPER RIGHT OF THE PAGE. CLICK ON THE DIRECTLY BELOW THE SEARCH BAR, THEN CLICK 'FOLLOW'. BY 'FOLLOWING', YOU'LL RECEIVE ALL INFORMATION POSTED TO THE FCC'S FACEBOOK PAGE. THE PAGE INCLUDES WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE RECORDINGS, SPECIAL EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Website

Our website has been updated. One important new feature is an up-to-date monthly calendar, with changes made in real time. You can visit the website by using the following URL:

<https://wearefaithcommunitychurch.weebly.com>

Faith Community Church Serving our neighbors in the footsteps of Jesus.

12821 S. Warner Rd. at Lansing Rd.

Worship: 10:00 a.m. Christian Education: 11:00 a.m. (during the school year)

Phone (517) 675-1567

Newsletter email: ctspringer@1791.com

Faith Community Church
12821 S Warner Rd
Shaftsburg, MI 48882