

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, February 27, 2022

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT?

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.

The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do significantly) use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

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Transfiguration Sunday



Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2nd Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

“See and Be God’s Glory”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 27

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

Prayer Requests

Joe V., Sam, Patsy and Betty
George, John and Patty
Brenna, Bella, Joyce and Bob
Robbie McSwain and his classmates as they travel to Washington, D.C.
Nic Reed, Youth Director at Deer Lake UMC-complications from eye surgery
Pastor Michelle Schrader, recently diagnosed with lymphoma, her mother passed away and her dog was hit by a car and died
Mike's family and friends on his passing
Other friends and families who have lost loved ones recently
Friends in need of strength and peace of mind
All those who are suffering from accidents, illnesses and surgery

Praises:

This church and all they share with others as fruits of the Spirit!
The glorious world God has given us to live in!

Lenten Bible Study - "Witness at the Cross"

Beginning Sunday, March 6, Pastor Beth will lead a six week study for Lent featuring the book *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine. The book outlines thoughts of the many individuals who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion.

The Sunday classes will be in person from 9:30 to 10:30 am; the same class will be repeated the next Wednesday night via Zoom from 7 to 8 pm. Cost of the book is \$15/copy. Please let Pastor Beth know if you want to participate.

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Why 40 days? 40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent. Why is it called Lent? Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

Why do we use the color purple in the church? Purple is the symbolic colour used in some churches throughout Lent, for drapes and altar frontals. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the color associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

Both the eastern and western churches observe Lent but they count the 40 days differently. The western church excludes Sundays (which is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection) whereas the eastern church includes them.

The churches also start Lent on different days. Western churches start Lent on the 7th Wednesday before Easter Day (called Ash Wednesday). Eastern churches start Lent on the Monday of the 7th week before Easter and end it on the Friday 9 days before Easter. Eastern churches call this period the 'Great Lent'. The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week**.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches. It's a day of penitence to clean the soul before the Lent fast. **At Gray Memorial, we will observe Ash Wednesday with special worship services at 1:30 pm and 7 pm that day, March 2.**

Bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us for Ash Wednesday.



Table Talk: Conversations on Race Webinar Series

Join us for a monthly half-hour conversation with various speakers and share your thoughts about anti-racism efforts in our Conference. Presented by The Beloved Community.

Register for the upcoming session: ["The Basics of Anti-Racism II" on Wednesday, March 2 at 12 p.m.](#) featuring:



Panel Speakers:

Jessica Wai-Fong Wong, PhD, is an associate professor of systematic theology and works in political and liberation theologies with a focus on race, gender, society, and visual theory. [Click here to visit her website.](#)



Rev. David Williamson is co-pastor at Grace UMC-St. Augustine and one of the leaders of the Public Policy & Witness Team of the Bishop's Anti-



L. Paul Lawson, PhD is lead pastor of Dundee UMC. He is a native-born Jamaican with roots in Pentecostal, Wesleyan and Liberation Theology church traditions. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he is very passionate about confronting the forces of oppression and victimization, and leading in the search for God in an age of secularism. [Read more about Pastor Lawson.](#)

[Click here to register for the Table Talk webinar →](#)

Brought to you by the Beloved Community Cohort of The Florida Conference Anti-Racism Task Force

Free Dental Care! First Come, First Served

2022 Florida Mission of Mercy - March 11-12, 2022

Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, 2022 - from 7 am to 7 pm

Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, Florida

Patients will be seen on first come, first served basis. Please come early and prepare to wait in line. Adults who are willing to wait and do not have medically compromised conditions are eligible.

You **DO NOT** need a photo ID, social security number, insurance information or other personal identification. Children under 18 can be treated but must be accompanied by parent or guardian.

Services provided include: Cleanings, fillings, extractions, limited root canals and pediatric dentistry. For a list of low-cost dental clinics, visit www.fdacares.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 22	5:30 pm 7 pm	Yoga Class Executive Council meets via Zoom
Wednesday, Feb. 23	7 pm	Zoom Bible Study led by Todd Clark- Book of Acts
Thursday, Feb. 24	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice
Sunday, Feb. 27	11 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, March 1	5:30 pm 7 pm	Yoga Class Finance Committee meets via Zoom
Wednesday, March 2	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	12 noon	Wonderful Wednesday Brown Bag Luncheon
	1:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thursday, March 3	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice
Sunday, March 6	9:30 am	Lenten Study Begins (Introduction & Chapter 1)