

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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MARCH 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dearest Faith,

A couple of weeks ago on a cold and breezy Friday, a number of us gathered in the church parking lot. We weren't there just to chat and laugh together, although that was pretty fun. We were there because Faith UMC was hosting the Holy Cow Food Truck for the first time. So, we ate together too as we supported this important ministry.

If you're unfamiliar with Holy Cow, it's a food truck ministry operated by the Haywood Pathways Center. They set up at different locations in Waynesville and cook food to give to anyone who's hungry. When people donate money, those gifts support the Pathways Center whose mission is "in Christ's name, feed the hungry, house the homeless and reduce recidivism in Haywood County." Pretty amazing.

I was excited when we got the opportunity to host Holy Cow, and I was grateful for the hospitality you offered to our neighbors in need. Most of all, it was a joy to get to be a part of what God is doing in our community.

As we enter into the season of Lent - a great time for prayerful reflection - I wonder: how do you see and hear God moving in our community? Maybe during this Lenten season, we might hear God inviting us to be a part of what God is doing here in new ways.

Faith, I'm grateful for all the ways you love God and each other. And I'm looking forward to worshipping with you during this season of Lent, as we listen to God together.

Grace and peace,
Jed

MESSAGE FROM LAY LEADER SUSAN

Spring 2023 Road Trip – Our Lenten Journey of Prayer, Fasting, and Works of Love

I love a road trip. If someone says, “let’s go.....”, I say, “WHEN?” For about a week now, we have been on our Spring 2023 road trip of Lent.

I hope you have been in prayer for this meaningful time of the Christian year! This is a perfect time to reflect on your life - the good, bad, and ugly. This forty-day journey can bring you into a closer relationship with Christ.

Whether you chose to give up something or take on something, I pray your Lenten journey will be life changing for you.

Each day is an opportunity for us to give more time in conversation with God, to fast from those nasty habits or things that keep us from being the person God intends us to be, and to use our time, talents, and resources for works of love in the name of Christ.

May you receive a special blessing on this journey as we walk together toward the glorious celebration Sunday. ST



RICK’S REFRAIN

Look for Rick’s article next month.



BETH’S MISSION MESSAGE

Due to Beth’s current health condition, everyone is asked to take on the task of providing some type of mission outreach during Lent.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10

Smokey has Sunday School lessons for children ages 4 to 12 and Mark has adult lessons each week.



Stewardship News as of February 26, 2023

“I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with my Prayers, my Presence, my Gifts, my Service, and my Witness.”

2023 Budget \$50,519.00

Needed through 2/26/23	\$9,093.42
Received to date for budget	\$6,566.00
Behind Budget	\$2,527.42
Paid out to date for budget	\$5,900.62

We thank you for your faithfulness!

MARCH 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP 11 AM**

March 3 – World Day of Prayer

is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

People celebrate Saint Patrick's Day on March 17 to honor the Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

Saint Patrick was born in 4th Century Britain, kidnaped at 16, and taken to Ireland. He escaped to France, where he was indoctrinated into Christianity. St. Patrick returned to Ireland in 432 to help convert the population to Christianity.

He built many monasteries, churches, and schools, to preach his beliefs during his time there.

Legend has it that Saint Patrick repelled snakes away from Ireland. However, there's a possibility that this represented him getting Ireland rid of pagans and non-believers.

It is also said that he used the shamrock to symbolize the Holy Trinity. Hence, the shamrock became the symbol of this day.



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March 19 – St. Joseph's Day



Saint Joseph was said to be a carpenter, and a highly skilled artisan and tradesman.

He married the Virgin Mary and became the stepfather of Jesus Christ. Together, the three are known as the Holy Family.

Accounts of Joseph are noticeably absent from reports of Jesus' days as a preacher; thus, it is believed that he may have died before this.

He is also the patron saint of unborn children, fathers, immigrants, and workers. Saint Joseph is regarded as a model for fathers everywhere.

Saint Joseph's Day is an event that is celebrated with public and private altars

being built filled with food such as pasta, fish, bread, cakes, pastries, and fava beans.

The food must be meatless, as March 19 happens during Lent. These altars are blessed by a priest and hold a statue of St. Joseph. Afterward, the food is donated to charities.

New Orleans hosts big Saint Joseph Day parades, like the ones of Mardi Gras. Some people believe that burying a Saint Joseph statue upside down will help them sell their house. Saint Joseph's Day is also celebrated in other parts of the United States where there are big Italian communities, such as New York, Chicago, Kansas, and Rhode Island.



Holy Cow Food Truck served food from Faith UMC parking lot.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – John Davis
- 3 – Kay Boen
- 9 – Beth Williams
- 18 – Terri Rogers
- 22 – Mige Hambrick
- 26 – Eduardo Villeveces
- 28 – George Dixon



MARCH ANNIVERSARY

- 27 – Don & Beth Williams