

Faith in Action February 2016 Volume I

Faith United Methodist Church
1623 Central Avenue
Kearney NE 68847-6021
office@kearneyfaith.org
(308) 237-2550

MISSION STATEMENT: At Faith United Methodist Church our mission is to worship God, teach the Word, and care for one another in Christian love by nurturing individuals in their spiritual journey.



February Birthdays

2/01 Jon McBride
2/03 Cindy Mangels
2/05 Carter Findley
2/06 Rema Hemmerling
2/06 Rylei Gavierrez
2/09 Regan Jennings
2/09 Quinten Clausen
2/09 Arianna Spellman
2/11 Betty Hagan
2/11 Brett Woollen
2/11 Cooper Woollen
2/11 Kaden Woollen
2/11 Parker Woollen
2/12 David Wisch
2/13 Doneta Gifford
2/14 Jean Johnson
2/14 Adelynn Slack
2/15 Rick Triplett
2/16 Mindy Lester
2/17 Norm Vinderslev
2/19 Macy Cool
2/20 Harper Vogt
2/24 Soffia Polhemus
2/27 Angela Belmarez
2/27 Trevor Isaac
2/28 Sherry Foley



No February Anniversaries

Happy
Groundhog
Day!



Groundhog Lore

Coming up fast is the day that celebrates our furry friend, the groundhog. We give him his due and explore more of the lore around Groundhog Day, February 2.

You might think that this is all about Punxsutawney Phil in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and Wiarton Willie in Wiarton, Ontario (and many others!). In fact, there is a bit more to the day than that.

- February 2 is also Candlemas Day. It's no accident that Groundhog Day and Candlemas are celebrated together, for both signify the triumph of light over darkness, spring over winter. In the Christian tradition, it is the day when a year's supply of candles are blessed.
- February 2 is 40 days after Christmas and is known as the Feast of the Purification among Christians. (Presentation at the temple) "Februa" was the month for cleansing, when yule greens were removed from homes and churches and old brush and debris were burned to prepare the fields for the next sowing.
- February 2 is exactly halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, and the daylight is 1 hour and 2 minutes longer on this day than it was when winter began.

Oh, about those groundhogs: Expect 6 more weeks of winter either way!

(The Old Farmer's Almanac)



Dining Out for United Way is a competition in which teams compete to see who can raise the most tips to benefit United Way.

All times are 5:30-8:00 p.m.



January 19th Old Chicago
Team Kernick, Straatman, and McBride



February 2nd Cunningham's
Team Brockmeier and Berglund



February 9th Sozo
Team Barney and Schnieders



February 16th Skeeter Barnes
Team Gerdes and Anderson



February 23rd Chicken Coop
Team Means and Jelden

February 9, 2016

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day): Facts and Information

(<http://primaryfacts.com/262/shrove-tuesday-pancake-day-facts-and-information/>)

Here are some facts about Shrove Tuesday (often called Pancake Day in the United Kingdom).

- Shrove Tuesday is a Christian festival to mark the start of Lent. Lent is a period of about six weeks when Christians are meant to practice abstinence – by giving up luxuries or unnecessary things. Lent ends on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday.
- Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is associated with pancakes being eaten. This was the last chance to eat rich foods before Lent, and an opportunity to use up all of the luxury foods (such as fat, butter and eggs) which might be given up during Lent.
- Although it always falls on a Tuesday, the exact date of Pancake Day changes from year to year. It is always 47 days before Easter Sunday, and this means that it is possible for Pancake Day to be on any day between February 3rd and March 9th.

Shrove Tuesday is celebrated by Christians all over the world, but the festival is known by different names.

- In the UK, Ireland and Australia the celebration is most often called Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday.
- In France and the French-speaking and Catholic communities of the United States, they refer to Shrove Tuesday as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
- In Iceland people celebrate Sprengidagur (The Day of Bursting)

Thank you for covering both me and my son Zayne in your prayers. The love and kindness of virtual strangers has an amazing healing property and adds so much additional comfort during such a tragic time. We are grateful that Shauna Brown thought of us.

Again, thank you.

**With thanks,
Shanda and Zayne Kinkade**



Shanda and Zayne were covered with prayer on January 17, 2016.

LENT AND EASTER

(<http://www.umc.org/topics/topic-lent-and-easter>)

In the seasons of Lent and Easter, the church focuses on remembering, retelling and participating in the story of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. Focusing on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Eastertide is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. We celebrate the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection, we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

Ash
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 10

7:00 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes



Why Add a Leap Day?

Leap Days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun.

It takes the Earth approximately 365.242199 days

(a tropical year) to circle once around the Sun. If we didn't add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days in relation to the seasons.

Leap Day as a concept has existed for more than 2000 years, and is still associated with age-old customs, folklore and superstition. One of the most popular traditions is that women propose to their boyfriends.

(<http://www.timeanddate.com/date/leap-day.html>)

From **KATHY BRISBIN:**

Pictured are "walker bags" that my grandkids Noah, Braxton and Elizabeth made and donated to The Homestead. Elizabeth has community service projects to do for school and she chose this one . . . and the boys didn't want to be left out!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Compass Nebraska is a non-profit organization in Kearney that invests in the lives of children in the foster care system in many ways. One way they do this is through offering a night out for the foster care parents. We provide a meal, snacks and activities for the children for three hours one evening a month so foster parents can have a date night or just have a quiet night at home.

We are asking local churches to partner with us in donating items that will be used throughout the year for Foster Parent Night Out. Below is a list of items we could use:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| juice boxes | Graham crackers |
| bottled water | granolas |
| goldfish crackers | little Debbie snacks |
| animal crackers | popcorn |
| fruit snacks | any type crackers |
| fruit, jello or pudding cups | |

We are trying to get the word out about this opportunity to help the foster families in our area.

If people are willing to donate items, they may bring them to the Compass office at 514 W 11th Street, Kearney, or to Faith United Methodist Church.

Also, if they have further questions about other ways to help they may email questions to marie@compassnebraska.org.

Thank you so much.

Marie Liibe
Compass Nebraska



FEBRUARY/MARCH MISSION

Faith's mission for February and March will be **Compass Nebraska.**

Compass raises awareness about foster care and adoption and about other services, and it supports children and families in the foster care system.

A list of items that we may contribute to Compass is elsewhere in the newsletter.



Presidents' Day



3rd Monday in February

PRESIDENTS' DAY

The history of Presidents' Day can be traced back to the late 1700s. People began celebrating George Washington's birthday (February 22) while he was still president.

About a hundred years later, his birthday became a federal holiday. Meanwhile, many people celebrated Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12, in the year of his assassination (1865) and afterward, though Lincoln's birthday never became a federal holiday.

Both Washington and Lincoln were great presidents. Washington helped to hold the country together during the Revolutionary War, and Lincoln, to bring it back together after the Civil War.

But all of our presidents have served our country and worked to make our lives better. Since the passage of the Monday Holidays Act, Washington's birthday has been celebrated on the third Monday in February. President Nixon called the holiday "Presidents' Day" to honor all past presidents.

Many states and people have followed his example, though "Washington's Birthday" is still the holiday's legal name for the federal government. But under any name, it's a great day to celebrate everything that our past presidents, including Washington and Lincoln, have done for our nation.

(Taken from <http://usa.gov>)

LENT- A Season for Fasting, A Season for Feasting

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ living in them

Fast from harsh words; Feast on words that build up others

Fast from discontentment; Feast on gratitude

Fast from anger; Feast on patience

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism

Fast from worry; Feast on God's care

Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness

Fast from Self-concern; Feast on compassion for others

Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope

Fast from facts that depress; Feast on facts that uplift

Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth

Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire

Fast from idle gossip; Feast on silence with a purpose

Fast from guilt; Feast on the mercy of God

Lent is such a time for fasting and feasting!



**Thank you for the cards, calls,
plants and prayers during my
healing time. They were ap-
preciated.**

~ Doneta Gifford



February 14: National Donor Day Organ Donation: Pass It On Give A Gift Of Life

A gift with a major impact—one that will long be remembered with gratitude—takes just a bit of preparation. When you become an organ donor, you can save the lives of up to 8 people. And if you donate tissues like blood cells, bone or corneas, you can help even more.

Organ transplantation was once considered an experimental procedure with a low success rate. Many transplanted organs survived just a few days or weeks. But researchers have transformed transplant surgery from risky to routine. It's now the treatment of choice for patients with end-stage organ disease. Each day, about 80 Americans receive a lifesaving organ transplant. You can donate some organs—like a kidney or part of your liver—while you're still alive.

Most organs, though, are donated after the donor has died. The organs must be recovered quickly after death to be usable. Many come from patients who've been hospitalized following an accident or stroke. Once all lifesaving efforts have failed and the patient is declared dead, then organ donation becomes a possibility.

"When a person dies, it can feel like a burden to a family to make decisions about organ donation," says Feng. "So it would be a real gift to a family to indicate your decision to be an organ donor while you're still alive, so they don't have to make the decision for you."

In addition to organs, you can donate tissues. One of the most commonly transplanted tissues is the cornea, the transparent covering over the eye. A transplanted cornea can restore sight to someone blinded by an accident, infection or disease. Donated skin tissue can be used as grafts for burn victims or for reconstruction after surgery. Donated bones can replace cancerous bones and help prevent amputation of an arm or leg.

HOW TO BECOME A DONOR

The most important thing to do is to sign up as an organ and tissue donor in your state's donor registry.

To cover all bases, it's also helpful to:

- ◆ Designate your decision on your driver's license
- ◆ Tell your family about your donation decision
- ◆ Tell your physician, faith leader, and friends
- ◆ Include donation in your advance directives, will, and living will.



(National Institute of Health)

ORGAN DONATION
A GIFT FOR LIFE

Beyond Fasting: 10 Tips For A More Meaningful Lent
A UMC.org Feature by Joe Lovino

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for mistakes they have made. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

1. Apologize to someone

Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

2. Perform random acts of kindness

Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

3. Delve into a book of the Bible

Enhance your devotions by getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

4. Serve people in need

Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Sign up and get trained. Then volunteer to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

5. Visit the lonely

Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to a local nursing home about washing wheelchairs, or a children's hospital about visiting with parents of patients. Volunteer with a prison ministry, senior center, or any other place where people need some human contact. Play games, tell stories, look at photo albums, and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "when you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount

These 13 sermons (available online) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion" ("The Sermons of John Wesley – An Introduction"). Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

7. Tell others you love them

Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we *show* our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

8. Throw a party for everyone

Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party by cooking for the neighborhood, or buying lunch for the entire office or your church. Feed everyone you can and give people an opportunity to be together.

9. Serve in worship

Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a reader, work with the tech team, help a young family with their baby, or find some other way to serve your church. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

10. Say "thank you"

Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Send a note of gratitude to one of them each week during Lent. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

There are many ways to be observant during Lent. Be original. Find yours.



Saturday, April 2, 2016 The ONE DAY BIG EVENT at UNK Celebrating a Decade of Service

Please plan to participate in UNK's Student Service Day, "The Big Event" on Saturday, April 2, 2016.

We are looking for non-profits, charities, or individuals who are elderly and have physical challenges and would like assistance of any kind.

Please visit our webpage www.Bigeventunk.weebly.com to sign up, or contact the Nebraska Student Union/Office of Student Life at (308) 865-8523 if you have questions.

The students at UNK have been doing this for over ten years and want to make this year the biggest and best ever. Please let us serve you, or contact us if you know someone that may need assistance with yard work, painting, or any other type of service.

Thank you, Kearney Community, for all you do for us!

When a young minister was still single, he preached a sermon he entitled, "Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children got to be teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.

~ Rev. Bernard Brunsting

* * * * *

A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."

~ Rev. Dennis R. Fakes, Lodi, CA

* * * * *

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

* * * * *

Inspirational speaker Dr. Wayne Dyer still remembers the card his kids gave him for his 64th birthday. The front said, "Inside is a message from God."

Pleased they finally appreciated his work, he opened it to read, "See you soon!"

FEBRUARY 2016



Faith United Methodist Church
 1623 Central Avenue
 Kearney NE 68847-6021
 office@kearneyfaith.org
 (308) 237-2550

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 5:30 Trustees 6:00 Finance 7:00 NO CO-ED BIBLE STUDY 7:00 Cub Scouts	3 12:15 W.W. 3:30 C.C.F. 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir	4 5:45 W.W. 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study	5	6 8:30 W.W.
7 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun School 11:00 Worship	8 5:30 Christian Ed 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Co-ed Bible Study 7:00 Cub Scouts	10 12:15 W.W. 3:30 C.C.F. 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	11 5:45 W.W. 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study	12	13 8:30 W.W.
14 Happy Valentine's Day 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun School 11:00 Worship	15 5:30 Nurture 6:30 Ad Board 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Cub Scouts	17 12:15 W.W. 3:30 C.C.F. 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir	18 5:45 W.W. 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study 7:00 PFLAG	19	20 8:30 W.W.
21 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun School 11:00 Worship	22 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 7:00 Cub Scouts	24 12:15 W.W. 3:30 C.C.F. 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir	25 5:45 W.W. 6:30 Young Adult Bible Study	26	27 8:30 W.W.
28 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun School 11:00 Worship	29 Leap Day 7:00 Boy Scouts					