

Polly's Pondering

"The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace them with cedars."
Isaiah 9:10

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."
Philippians 3:13

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

We have now reached the month when one year ago everything seemed to come to a screeching halt around here. During the next few months, we learned how to do worship online and we focused on being the church outside the building. I am so pleased with the way you as a church family came together to assure that our staff did not lose income during these difficult days. And through it all we fared above the average on percentage of income retained. Of course, there were far less expenses as well. You were faithful givers even during the uncertainty of the times. Well done.

It seems only fitting, just one year later, that we should be adding to our programming and worshiping activities during the month of March. We have added to our staff, investing in our children and youth. We have, after much prayer, re-structured our morning worship. This has added to the ease of flow, addressed some needs for children, enhanced our music ministry, and provided a structure that will improve our online worship experience for those unable or unwilling to return to inhouse worship or simply seeking an alternative to inhouse worship. We are now able to reach individuals outside of the Franklin area. And the first Sunday evening in March at 6:00pm we will begin a once-a-month praise celebration called **Ignite**. The focus on this worship opportunity will be lifting our voice in praise through song and seeking to kindle the Holy Spirit within us to empower us for the week ahead as we seek to be the church in our schools, our work, our homes, our community. Come join us March 7 as we share praise and worship and a 6 minute devotion based on 2 Timothy 1:6.

Although we are not able to host our Lenten luncheons on the church campus as we have over the last 16 years, I am inviting each of you to join me Wednesdays in Lent for a brief devotional. They will be sent out via email and then available online. Let's keep our eyes on Christ as we journey with him to the cross.

The Worship, Education, and Children's ministry teams are working to provide meaningful worship and programming throughout Lent and Holy Week.

- Sunday Evening Pot luck and Lenten study, February 28, March 21 and 28.
- Devotions each Wednesday, (March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th 31st)
- Ignite on March 7th, April 11th, and May 2nd at 6pm
- Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt March 27th 9-11am
- Palm Sunday Morning Small Groups at 9am and Worship at 10:15am with Children's Parade with palm branches.
- Holy Thursday Service at 6pm - Nursery provided
- Good Friday viewing of "The Passion Movie" for adults and youth 6th - 12th (with written permission) followed by communion (in Sanctuary) 6:00pm
- Good Friday video's and activities for preschool and elementary, hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks provided. 6pm

We are so excited to be adding these additional worship and programming events, and for safe and welcoming nursery care for our very smallest members. With these additions, we will see increases to our monthly expenses. So, more than ever, we need and appreciate your continued faithful giving to God and His church here at FUMC.

Together we are honoring the past and embracing our future with hope.