

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, February 24, 2022

THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, as people return from school break, Faith Formation begins at 9:30. We look forward to seeing everyone again.

It is Transfiguration Sunday – the last Sunday of this Epiphany season. Pastor Vicki's sermon, *Remove the Veil*, is based on Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36. This is the last Sunday collecting for the Heifer Project. Preparing for *The Envelope Please*, the children of Faith Formation arranged envelopes corresponding to the days in February (1 – 28). If you took one, now is the time to bring your envelope with (at least) that number of dollars enclosed. (Don't feel limited! If you want to add zeroes to the number, they'll be thrilled!)

11:45 Outreach Team Meets

NEXT WEEK

Monday through Thursday, the Homer Elementary Staff will undergo training in our building. They will be using the RFR from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. We are glad to welcome our neighbors.

COMING UP

THIS Tuesday at 5:30 PM: *Winner, Winner, Chicken (soup) Dinner*
Join us as we keep our tradition of sharing a meal and some games for our kids on this Shrove Tuesday (the night before Lent begins). Throughout February, you have been supporting our efforts on behalf of the Heifer Project. On Sunday, we will announce which team has raised the most money for Heifer and that team will serve the meal on Tuesday evening. After the meal, our teams will decide which Heifer animals we'll purchase.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

From December through June, Christian churches remember Jesus' life. The Word made Flesh, dwells with us from birth into childhood. His cousin John-the-Baptizer helps kick off an adult public ministry. A storyteller at heart, Jesus uses common images (different soils for planting, a *good* enemy, a mustard seed) to tease his posse into understanding a new Way of life. We follow. We learn. We, too, are changed.

Years ago, Nancy Stockholm's daughter Karyn was preparing for a long trip. When questioned if she was dreading the driving she laughed and reminded me that if one had "good tunes", the trip was manageable.

Still following Jesus, we now turn our heads toward Jerusalem. The journey through Lent is about being more mindful. It is a time of slowing down and it offers the chance to consider *Am I really being the person I intend to be?* The "tune" that will accompany us on this trip is:

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.

Oh, nobody else could walk it for him. He had to walk it by himself.

And this year, our wilderness journey will include a stone – selected next Wednesday and carried through the season. It will be a reminder, a symbol, perhaps a scapegoat. Ready? Here is how we begin...

Wednesday, March 2 at 7 PM

Ash Wednesday Service

Set in the sanctuary, we begin our journey through Lent. The palms from Palm Sunday 2021 are the ashes for this service. We hope you will gather for this quiet service of prayer and contemplation. As a part of the service, you will be given a stone to carry with you along your journey. In addition, the ashes will remind us that we are not God. That is good news for humanity.

Sunday, March 6

9:30 Adult book study begins: *How to Love* by Thich Nhat Hanh
Our adults decided to continue their contemplation about love. This study will last about three week and books are now available.

10:30 Communion on the First Sunday in Lent
We will sing, reminding ourselves that Jesus walked a lonesome valley. Lenten stones will, again, be available.
It is Communion, so bring your own kit or use a pre-packaged one.

11:45 Introduction to New Testament
If you are interested in participating, see Quinn Caldwell or Pastor Vicki.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN FILM SERIES

Hoping to expand our encounter with racism and its meaning in our lives, our area clergy offer this film series. Watch in person with 30 minutes of discussion afterward or watch it on your own and then take part in a Zoom discussion. If you watch it live and desire even more discussion, feel free to participate in the Zoom, as well. We begin with:

Bend It Like Beckham - Discussion led by Rev. Dave Johnson, pastor at UPC.

Watch at HCC on Monday, March 7 at 6:30 PM

Watch at United Presbyterian in Cortland on Wednesday, March 9 at 2 PM

Also available on HBO Max

Zoom discussion on Thursday, March 10 at 6:30 PM

Zoom information - Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/join/9122111111>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Upcoming films:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Movie</u>	<u>length of film</u>	<u>available on:</u>
March 14/16	Glory Road	1h 58m	Disney+
March 21/23	Loving	2h 3min	Netflix
March 28/30	Green Book	2h 10min	Prime Vid.
April 4/6	The Hate U Give	2h 12min	Hulu
April 11/13	I Am Not Your Negro	1h 33min	Netflix

WHEN YOU PRAY, PLEASE REMEMBER:

The people of Ukraine.

Pray for Brian, Gary, Jason, Mark, May, Paul, Tyler

Our Confirmands: Amelia, Claudia Jean, Daniel, Delanie, Jack & Jack, Maddie, Matthew