



Lent is a spiritually significant time of seeking to grow in our love for God.

March Fourth Teller

March 2020

Special points of interest:

- Ash Wednesday & Journey Through Lent
- Lent Soup Luncheons



Remember You are Dust, and to Dust You Shall Return

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Dear Fourth Avenue UMC Friends,

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” The season of Lent opens with these stark words spoken to penitent worshippers as ashes are imposed in the shape of the cross on the forehead. As Western culture becomes more and more irreligious, traditions and practices once largely normal seem more and more strange. Large families, choosing church over youth sports, Sunday family dinners, visiting friends and relatives or smudged foreheads just aren't as common as they used to be.

In fact, I'm not sure there is a Christian observance that more directly collides with the widely accepted values of our secular society than the “imposition of the ashes,” a tradition that goes back about ten centuries and marks the beginning of the season of Lent on the Church calendar.

Like Advent, the season of Lent is about *preparation*. Before Christmas, our Christian forbearers thought it wise to prepare a bit, and that by diving deeply into Old Testament promises and prophecies we'd better understand the birth of Christ in the full context of God's work of redemption throughout the centuries. So too, in Lent, our Christian forbearers thought it wise to prepare for Holy Week, especially for celebrating the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

A key distinction is that Lenten disciplines, beginning with Ash Wednesday's reminder that “You are dust and to dust you shall return,” place our celebration of resurrection in the context of our humanity, both our *mortality* and our *fallenness*. These are two important aspects of our humanity that are worthy of our focused, intentional, and extended reflection.



Prayer Chain

If you need prayer for any reason, there is an active group in our congregation committed to praying for you.

Contact **Carole Evans** at 507-210-6971 or e-mail her at caroleannjean@gmail.com.

You are welcome to join the prayer chain. Just call Carole.

If you notice a need for building maintenance, contact the trustees at: Trustees.fourthaveumc@gmail.com

Fragrances smell pretty and enhance nature. In church, please keep them to a minimum. We have some members who are very allergic to the smells of flowers and other items.

Pastor's Page (Continued from page 1)

Of course, most Christians would quickly reply that sin and death affect us all following the rebellion of our first parents in Eden. The problem is, in a post Christian culture, these beliefs that are crucial to our Christian understanding can be subtly re-defined in our own hearts and minds and lead us astray.

An old man who suffered terribly for three to four months before he died. When his grandson asked the pastor in sorrow, "Why doesn't God just take him?" he expected him to say something along the lines of, "Well, God has His ways, and His own timing." Instead, the pastor said something unforgettable: "Because your grandfather needs to know his mortality before he meets his Maker."

Ponce de Leon once sought hope against death in the waters of a Fountain of Youth. In our time, we seek immortality through nutritional supplements and medical technology. We seek control over this world and even over death itself. Despite our search, death remains the universal problem of the human condition, one that afflicts us all. Our culture so fears death itself that we either attempt to control death or distract ourselves from the thought of it. As a result, we learn to live for the moment instead of in light of eternity.

The reality of death should, instead, remind us to fear God. The truth is that when death comes, we will meet the maker of life and face judgement. This sober reality is worthy to ponder, not just as death approaches, but continuously throughout our lives. When we avoid thinking about death, even we who believe in God, fail to live in the true freedom that is ours as the children of God.

Much like with the idea of *mortality*, our understanding of our own *sinfulness* is also under threat of being redefined in our own minds. Our culture seeks to catechize us by removing categories of "sin" or "guilt" from our thinking, giving way to nearly universal "get-out-of-jail-free" cards or a "everyone goes to heaven" mindset. We are told to "trust your heart" or "be true to yourself" and too many Christians become lulled to sleep and lose any aversion to that which ought shock and shame us.

The salvation God won for us by Christ's life, death, and resurrection is a radical act by a just and merciful God, far more than "a wonderful example of love and sacrifice" or "how to gain purpose and perspective." According to the Apostles Paul and Peter and Jesus himself, this great salvation extends forgiveness and resurrection victory to hopeless sinners under the curse of the law of sin and death.

Of course, being confronted with our own *sinfulness* is certainly no fun, but God does it graciously. After all, the cruelest thing to tell someone who's not okay is that they are, as our culture (and compromised churches) too often do. Repentance is a gift, the only way forward for those on the edge of the moral abyss. It's proof that God is merciful and kind, the Scriptures say.

These days, we just don't hear these things often enough. So, thank God for Lent. For a holy Lent, a moral awakening, and a true spirit of repentance, I am yours,

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

This piece borrows heavily from an article written by John Stonestreet at Breakpoint.org. To find short and thought-provoking daily commentaries on our culture from a Christian perspective, you are encouraged to check out this powerful website.

Upcoming Events & Committee Meetings

Events

- March 2—Girl Scouts 7:00 PM (on line)
- March 3—Emmaus Pot Luck 6:00 PM in Parlor
- March 4—Choir and Praise Band 6:00 PM
- March 5—Trustees, 6:30 PM
- March 5—Operation 23 to Zero, 7:00 PM in Library
- March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2—Soup Luncheon Preparation
- March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3—Soup Luncheons
- March 9 SPRC with District Superintendent Cynthia Williams 6 PM
- March 10—Administrative Council; 6:30 PM
- March 11—Choir 6:00 PM
- March 17—Finance; 6:30 PM
- March 18—Praise Band 7:00 PM
- March 24—SPRC; 6:30 PM
- March 4, 11, 18, 25—Choir 6 PM

March Ushers

Phylis Wegner, Joyce & Dave Buresh

March Lay Readers

March 1—Dwayne Weber
 March 8—Liz Hartman
 March 15—Sharon Nelson
 March 22—Joyce Buresh
 March 29—Bob Nelson

March Acolytes

March 1 -Miles Schiffer
 March 8—Ella Prange
 March 15—Comfort Sonpon
 March 22—Wyatt Gehrke
 March 29—



Worship services online!

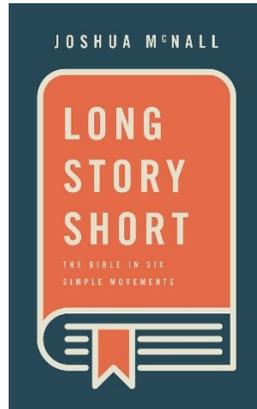
- www.fourthaveumc.org
- click on the "VIDEO" menu—
- OR on HOME page
- Scroll down right side - see options for the worship service.

OR go to

YouTube and search for 4th Avenue UMC to find several videos—choir, special music, and entire worship services.

ANNOUNCING

A Special Lenten Spiritual Growth Opportunity



Sundays, Beginning March 1, 10:15-11:30 am, Library
Suggested Donation: \$20

The Bible: A Drama in Six Movements

- Creation
- Fall
- Israel
- Christ
- Church
- New Creation

The Bible can be daunting. It's ancient, enormous, and sometimes challenging to understand. *Long Story Short* opens up the Christian Scriptures by sharing the biblical narrative in a way that requires no prior engagement with the Bible. It traces the big story of who God is and how he is saving the world through six simple movements: Creation; Fall, Israel; Jesus; Church; New Creation. With this framework in place, readers will not only understand how the little stories of the Bible fit together into a seamless whole, they will also be compelled to step into the drama to be part of its performance. This study is for anyone who may find the Bible confusing, irrelevant, or inaccessible.

First Sunday in Lent, March 1 (Holy Communion)

Message: *"Creation: A Glorious First Act of Love, Order, & Beauty"*

Second Sunday in Lent, March 8 (Baptism)

Message: *"The Fall: A Tragic, Devastating Second Act"*

Third Sunday in Lent, March 15

Message: *"Israel: God's Chosen People, Light to the Nations"*

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22

Message: *"Jesus: God's Rescue Plan Revealed"*

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29

Message: *"Church: Christ's Body on Earth"*

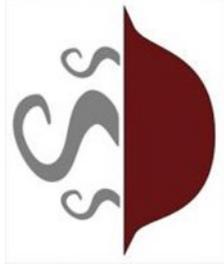
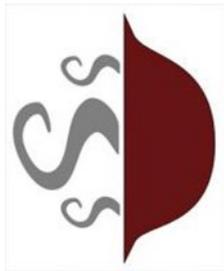
2020 Soup Luncheon Menu and Pricing

Welcome to Our 2020 Community Lenten Soup Luncheons

Serving 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Adults: \$8.00 / Children 12 & Under: \$3.00

All you care to eat soup served with bread, crackers, milk, coffee & water and 1 piece of dessert



Take Out: Quart of Soup \$7.00 Pint of Soup \$4.00 Dessert \$2.00

Take Out Meals: \$8.00 (includes 1 pint soup, bread, crackers & dessert)

For takeout orders, call 334-4308 Tuesday – Thursday 9 AM - Noon

Friday, February 28th	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	Turkey Wild Rice	*Cream of Potato
Friday, March 6 th	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	*Cream of Tomato	*Broccoli Cheese
Friday, March 13 th	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	Turkey Wild Rice	*Corn Chowder
Friday, March 20 th	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	*Wild Rice/Mushrooms	*Cream of Potato
Friday, March 27 th	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	*Clam Chowder	*Broccoli Cheese
Friday, April 3 rd	Turkey Noodle	Hamburger Vegetable	Split Pea & Ham	*Corn Chowder

* Meatless soups

 Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
 219 4th Avenue NW
 Faribault, MN 55021

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 AM Fellowship: 10:15 AM

---Soup lunches will be held regardless of weather---

Please help support the Faribault Food Shelf by bringing a non-perishable food item

Our 22nd Year of Lenten Soup Luncheons!

Lent and Easter are soon to be celebrated and that means we are gearing for our 22st year of Lenten Soup Luncheons! The first luncheon is **Friday, February 28** and we will be serving soup for 6 Fridays – the last one on **April 3**. This winter will be better tolerated with a piping hot bowl of delicious soup!

There are many ways to help:

Maybe you like to **bake**: We are in need of many pies and desserts every week.

Maybe you would like to help with **Soup Prep**. There are 2 opportunities for this.

**Food prep days are on Thursdays and start on February 27 – March 5, 12, 19, 26, and April 2.

There is a group that meets at 12:30 PM and a group that meets at 5:30 PM.

Maybe you're available on Fridays to help in the **kitchen, or in the dining room, or with clean up**.

**The soup luncheon dates are Friday, February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3.

Maybe you aren't physically able to help but would like to **donate** money to help us buy milk, soup ingredients, etc. Please contact us if you would like to join this 4th Avenue United Methodist soup team!

The Lenten Soup Luncheons not only feed our stomachs but they also feed our souls. It has become a signature "ministry" of our church and a great service to our community. We pray that those who enter our church building will experience the presence of Christ, and will see Him through the hospitality we extend and the service we give.

The Soup Luncheons are a major source of needed revenue for the operation of our church but we also plan to share those proceeds with Rice County Habitat for Humanity. We believe this is a great way to lead our community in expressing Christian generosity, engaging in mission, and building a Christian community/coalition beyond our local church to heal a broken world! We look forward to working together with you, making this a very meaningful event!

Kelly Landsverk (507)330-2840 or (507)334-3202 and
Chris Schiffer (507)400-5978 Lenten Soup Luncheon co-chairs



Ash Wednesday Celebration

Just to get into the swing of soup....a committee headed by Sharon and Robert Nelson planned an outstanding soup supper to be shared with our sister church congregation at Hope.

We were treated to 9 kinds of soup: (Can you believe it!!!) bread, crackers and even Lenten Sugar Cookies. We had: Chicken Wild Rice, Cream of Potato, Chicken Noodle, Chili, Italian Sausage Tortellini, Hamburger Vegetable, Ham and Wild Rice and Ham and Bean. About 50 people were served and lots of fellowship enhanced the evening.

Following our supper, we all went into the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Service. There was choir music, a wonderful sermon by Pastor Houck from Hope Church, the Dispensation of Ashes and Holy Communion.

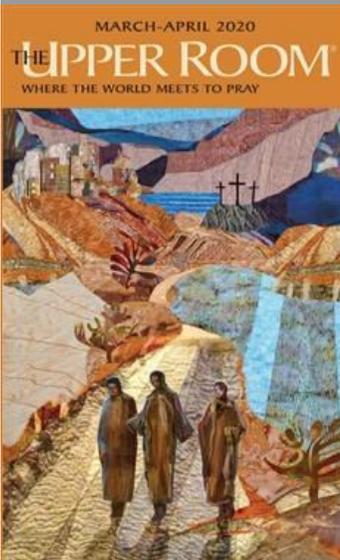
I want to thank our Hope guests and all who made soup, helped set up the Parlor for serving, all who helped clean up afterwards, both Pastors and everyone else who made this Event a wonderful success.

Carole Evans

Scripture Memory Verse for March

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:21

Upper Room
March/April



The Upper Room devotional booklet includes daily reading of the scriptures & a brief life story. Stop by the Annex to pick one up.
Donation - \$1.00.

March Birthdays

Brenna VanDerVeen	02
David DuChene	03
Pastor Dianne Ciesluk	09
Harry Truman	11
Sue Allen	11
Kelly Landsverk	12
Gary Kuhlman	12
Carole Evans	15
Elias Ciesluk	15
Linda Hellevik	17
David Buresh	17
Jesse Osmundson	19
Sara Steele	19
Corrie Wikoff	21
Payton Wikoff	22
Morgan Hale	25
Steve Grundman	30
Heather Hale	31

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The United Methodist Women will not have a meeting in March due to the efforts we will be putting into our church soup lunches. We will meet again on Thursday *April 16* at 1:00 pm in the parlor. Our program will be Part 2 of Irene Eiler's tour of our church's artifacts and memorials. In Part 1, we heard fascinating details and stories about many of the beautiful and useful objects in our church that have been an important part of our church experience. We appreciated seeing memorials, such as stained-glass windows, that were purchased to honor the lives of some of our group's family members. Donna Schuenke will be our hostess for the afternoon coffee. We will also be playing a rousing game of Church BINGO .

The United Methodist Women are in need of a treasurer. If anyone has the skills to help out in writing and depositing checks, please see Joyce Buresh or Donna Schuenke. The treasurer would not need to attend meetings.

March Anniversaries

Nicholas & Mardea Sonpon	10
Joe & Sandra Jandro	25

Students in the News

Honor Roll for Faribault High School.

A Honor Roll

Miles Schiffer - Grade 10
Landon Hatfield Grade 8

B Honor Roll

Aubrey Hatfield - Grade 10
Ella Prange—Grade 9
Annabel Schiffer Grade 7



**A “Noisy Offering”
Sundays in March (1, 8, 15, 22 & 29)
for Minnesota Food Share**



On each Sunday in March, we will have a special offering for Minnesota Food Share month. Bring your coins and let's make a loud noise for those who are hungry in our area.

Over 3 million visits are made to MN food shelves each year.
Nearly one in ten Minnesotans experience food insecurity.

One in eight children in Minnesota struggle with hunger.

Local food shelves can stretch your \$1 into enough food for 2-3 meals.

About 9.5% of Minnesotans
(13.8 % of children) were in poverty in 2017.

Often needed items:

- Proteins—canned meats, fish, and beans, nuts
- Fresh/dried herbs & spices;
White, wild, & brown rice varieties
- Gluten free flours & flower blends
- Personal care items—shampoo/soap, deodorant, toothbrush, feminine hygiene, diapers, toilet paper
- Household supplies—laundry & dish detergent, kitchen & bathroom cleaners, paper towels



Faribault Area Food Shelf

March is Minnesota Food Share Month and the Faribault Area Food Shelf is making preparation for a citywide food drive that begins on March 1, 2020. Our Goal is to raise over 35,000 pounds of food and funds for the ongoing Support of our programs. All food and money raised stays locally. We hope that your church will participate in Minnesota Food Share month by holding a food drive or making a donation. The final day for reporting food and money collected is April 12th.

Linda Gerr, Director

“Unplanned” showing

When: Fri. March 27th at 7pm

Sat. March 28th at 1:30pm

**Where: The Village Family Theater
20 2nd St NW, Faribault, MN 55021**

Hosted by Pregnancy Options

Of Faribault &

Bethlehem Academy's

Peer Ministry

Checking Account Balance December 31, 2019 **\$22,290.00**

Receipts for 1/1/20 to 1/31/20		Expenses for 1/1/20 to 1/31/20	
Unified Budget	\$11,964	Program Area	\$281
Fund C-Parsonage Interest	\$160	Building and Grounds	\$4,546
Loose Plate Offering	\$113	Administration Area	\$1,358
Apportionments 2020	\$220	Pastor's Compensation	\$7,800
Ruth's House Gift	\$100	Other Staff Compensation	\$2,565
Rural Evang. Missions - Liberia	\$100	Lenten Soup Luncheon Expense	\$32
Initial Offering	\$47		
Rice County Parking Lot Rental	\$500		
Total Income for January	\$13,204	Total Expenses for January	\$16,582

Checking Account Balance 1/31/20 **\$18,912**

Designated Youth Leader/Internship	(\$2,510)
Designated Emergency Mission Fund	(\$59)
Designated Wednesday Night Alive	(\$235)
Designated Church Growth	(\$1,000)
Designated Rural Evang. Missions-Liberia	(\$830)
Designated Easter Offering (for Missions)	(\$1,000)
Designated Sanctuary & Altar Decorations	(\$78)
Designated Ramp It Up	(\$3,590)
Designated Apportionments 2020	(\$220)
Designated UMCOR Nomads	(\$20)
Designated Poinsettias	(\$50)

SPENDABLE FUNDS January 31, 2020 **\$9,320**

**** Money Market Account Balance as of 1-31-20****

\$ 8,642.73 Weldon & Gayle Reineke Estate Gift
 \$36,496.26 Building Preservation and Improvement
 \$ 8,784.09 Lift Fund
 \$ 175.73 Interest Accrued

\$54,098.81

Apportionments sent in for 2019 \$12,059.00 of 23,584.92 = 51.1%

**Fourth Avenue United
Methodist Church
219 4th Ave NW
Faribault, MN
55021-5170**

“RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED”

- ◆ Sunday Worship/9:00 AM
- ◆ Coffee Fellowship/10:15 AM

Website:

www.fourthaveumc.org

Like us on Facebook

Join us at 2:42 PM daily as we pray our church's Breakthrough Prayer.

March 2020 Fourth Teller

Pastor Greg Ciesluk

Phone: 218-310-8813

Pastorgreg.fourthaveumc@
gmail.com

**Contact for Church Office &
Fourth Teller Editor:**
Sue Allen

Office Email:
fourthaveumcoffice@gmail.com

Phone: 507-334-4308

**Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday-Thursday**

Staff

Choir Director: Kelly Landsverk

Accompanist: Doug Madow

Nursery Attendant: Kim Luedke

Custodian: Robert Baden

Secretary: Sue Allen



The sign was lost, but now is found!

Praise God, rejoice with glee!

A special thanks to Lori Christiansen for finding the Soup Sign.