



The Messenger

Red Oak First United Methodist Church ♦ Jenn Van Nostrand, Pastor ♦ March 2024

From Jenn's Pen

Mark 2:27 "Then he (Jesus) said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

I asked a pastor friend the other day how his Lent was going. He told me he did not feel like it was Lent because he was on vacation during Ash Wednesday and for the first Sunday of Lent. He hopes that Lent will "feel" more like Lent this week when he begins his Lenten Bible study, and he is back in the pulpit on Sunday celebrating the third Sunday in Lent.

I hope your Lent is feeling like Lent friends! One thing I missed when I attended a non-denominational church was celebrating the church year by recognizing Advent and Lent. These seasons are set apart for personal reflection on what Christmas and Easter are really about: the birth and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent and Lent are created for us, just as the Sabbath was created for us, to take time to focus on our Lord and Savior and to realize what this life and being human is all about.

If we are not intentional about setting aside a time in our days and weeks to become self-aware of our shortcomings and God's amazing fountain of grace, we will not fully embrace the power and hope we have in the resurrection. Friends, take time to allow the season of Lent to feel like Lent by focusing on Jesus and allowing his Living Water to influence your ordinary life. Just like a waterfall continues to make noise even when no one is around to hear it, God's grace continues to fall into our lives whether we are listening or not. But God does not want you to miss out Beloved! God wants you to not only hear it, but to experience its refreshment! God wants you to share it with others! We are God's cupbearers that show others how much God loves them and that their lives are filled with God's grace as well!

Please plan on joining us for Holy Week services so you can fully appreciate Easter morning on Sunday, March 31. **Thursday, March 28** – JOINT Maundy/Thursday service at Red Oak at 6pm with meal being served. **(Please sign up in the church office so we have a meal count).**

Sunday, March 24 – JOINT Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 in Villisca; Easter Cantata; Lions hot roast beef sandwich lunch immediately following at the Villisca Community Center.

Friday, March 29 – Pastor Jenn guest speaker at Red Oak YMCA Good Friday breakfast at 6:30am; Good Friday Service/Stations of the Cross at Red Oak St. Mary's Catholic Church at noon; Villisca ICC JOINT service at 7pm at Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday in each location. No Joint service.

Pastor Jenn


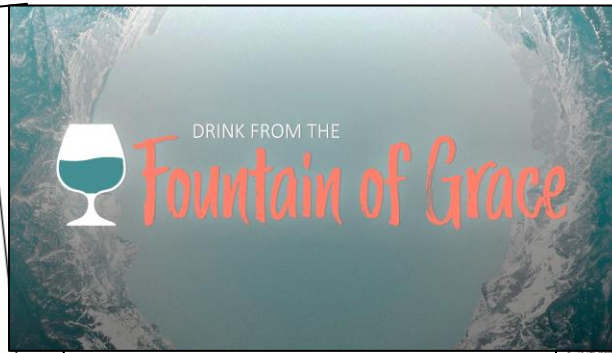


Lenten Sermon Series & Bible Study

Lenten Bible Reading Plan
Gospel of Mark

<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9:30-37
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1:21-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9:38-50
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1:40-2:12	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:1-16
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 2:13-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:17-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 2:13-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:32-45
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3:20-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11:1-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11:27-12:12
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4:21-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 12:13-34
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4:35-5:20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 12:35-44
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5:21-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13:1-20
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5:35-6:6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13:21-37
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6:7-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14:1-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6:30-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14:27-42
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6:45-56	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14:43-65
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14:66-15:15
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7:24-37	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15:16-39
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15:40-47
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:22-33	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16:1-8
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:34-9:13	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16:9-14
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9:14-29	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16:15-20

shopcupchouston.com 2022

Every Tuesday at 10 am, we gather in an interactive Bible Study to explore how to Drink From the Fountain of Grace. We are also following a daily Lenten Bible Reading Plan and a fun daily Lenten coin collection. All are welcome to join these activities. Want to know more? Ask us this Sunday at 9am, as we gather in the sanctuary to Drink From the Fountain of Grace.

March 2024

	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
Bring God praise money back these	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bring God money back these	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bring God money back these	18	19	20	21	22	23
Bring God money back these	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter Sunday						

Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many ways we can gather and worship God. Pray for those who will receive the coins collected that they would see God's presence through them.

HOLY WEEK



Experience all that is Holy Week – so you can experience all that is Easter morning!

Sunday, March 24, 10:30am – JOINT Palm Sunday Service at Villisca UMC featuring our combined choir **Easter Cantata!** Lions hot roast beef sandwich lunch immediately following at the Villisca Community Center.

Monday – Learn more about Jesus' activities the day after He entered Jerusalem: cursing the fig tree, teaching in parables, and overturning tables in the Temple.

Tuesday – Take a moment to meditate on what Jesus might have felt with religious leader plotting against Him...what He might have been feeling when He and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives.

Wednesday – The Bible doesn't say what the Lord did on Wednesday of Passion Week. After two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples may have spent the day resting in Bethany in anticipation of Passover.

Thursday, March 28, 6pm – JOINT Maundy/Thursday service at Red Oak with meal being served.

If you plan to attend or can help, please notify the church office by March 21st.

Friday, March 29 – Pastor Jenn is guest speaker at Red Oak YMCA Good Friday breakfast at 6:30am;

Noon – Good Friday Service/Stations of the Cross at Red Oak St. Mary's Catholic Church;

7pm – Villisca ICC JOINT service at 7pm at Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, March 31, 9am – Easter Sunday at Red Oak First UMC!! Bring everyone you know!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Villisca United Women in Faith Spring Dinner



Beef & Noodle Dinner
Wednesday
March 13th
5-7pm

The free will offering
will help support
summer camp scholarships.

The Cloisters on the Platte & Holy Family Shrine Field Trip Monday, March 18th

To reserve your spot, call or email the church office.



Time again for a Women's Conference at Villisca. Don't miss this special Saturday in April. Reserve your place now.



RAGBRAI July 21-27



The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa is coming to Red Oak! And Red Oak First UMC plans to join the celebration!! Our church and many of our families will be hosting riders overnight. We also want to offer them an evening meal and some of our best hospitality. If you'd like to be involved, call the church office at (712) 623-2367 or email Nicole at office@redoakfumc.org.

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Red Oak First United Methodist Church 600 East Hammond Street Red Oak, Iowa 51566 712-623-2367 Email: office@redoakfumc.org Website: redoakfumc.org Office Hours: 9am – 1pm Monday-Friday</p>					1	2
					 Patrick Wolfe	
3 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	4 9 – WIC Clinic  Michael Fisher	5 10 – Fountain of Grace Bible Study  Mark Gregg	6 Pastor Jenn on Vacay 3/6-11 10:30 – Nishna Game Day 5 – Choir Practice at Villisca UMC	7  Donald Torbett	8	9  Grant Vrba
10  Daylight Saving Time 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	11	12 10 – Fountain of Grace Bible Study 2 – Women's Fellowship	13 10 – Fountain of Grace Bible Study 5 – Choir Practice	14 3.14 = PI DAY 	15	16
17  St. Patrick's Day 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	18 Cloisters on the Platte Field Trip	19 Jenn's DCOM Zoom Interview 10 – Fountain of Grace Bible Study	20 5-7 Beef & Noodle Dinner at Villisca UMC 5 – Choir Practice at Villisca	21	22  Marlys Fisher  Katie Walker	23  Kathy Harris  Adenia Stanley
24 10:30 – Palm Sunday & Easter Cantata at Villisca UMC 	25	26 10 – Fountain of Grace Bible Study 6 – Ad Board	27 5 – Choir Practice	28 6 – Maundy/Thursday Meal & Service in Fellowship Hall	29 6:30 – Good Friday Breakfast: YMCA Noon – Good Friday Service at St. Mary's Catholic Church	30  William Stanley
31 9 – Easter Worship 10:15 – Sunday School   Carlos Guerra, IV						