



The Grapevine

Hopewell United Methodist Church

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February 2021

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” – Psalm 51:10

Not So Fast

A new season of Lent is approaching, and for many, it may seem like a continuation of the previous year. Lent begins a time of preparation of our hearts as we anticipate the coming of Easter. It is a time to humble ourselves, search our hearts for those places we fall short of God's image in which we are created, and to reflect on our mortality.

The contemporary season of Lent is 40 days. But was that always the case? In the early generations of the Christian faith, what we know as Lent was observed from the end of Good Friday to celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning. While observing the time Jesus was in the tomb, Christians would fast. Over time this period of preparation and fasting would increase in length.

When looking back in the history of the church, the preparation for Easter increased from one week to three weeks to six. During this time Sundays are excluded and observed as “mini-Easters.” It was the Christians in Jerusalem, presumably in the Fourth Century, that began preparation and fasting for 40 days. The forty days are meant to symbolize the time Moses dwelt on Mount Sinai ([Exodus 24:18](#)), Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb ([1 Kings 19:8](#)), and Jesus' time in the wilderness ([Matthew 4:2](#)). However, it was not until the Seventh Century that the western church began observing the forty-day preparation. Originally observing a period of six days for six weeks, the church decided to include the four days before the first Sunday, which is now Ash Wednesday.

In the early Church, fasting was believed to be beneficial because evil spirits would use food as a way to enter the body. Therefore, fasting was a way to reduce the possibility of contracting an evil spirit. However, this would become more of a spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter. It is believed that most Christians would set aside their desire for food (fast), and instead focus on the things of God ([Matthew 4:4](#)). When searching the pages of the Old Testament, fasting was a way for the people of God to practice self-control over the desires of the flesh. Therefore, this practice still contains its purpose for Christians today.

Fasting today is not limited to food alone. While some hold to traditional fasting of meals during the day, others selected a particular food they crave such as chocolate, ice cream, or sugar. Others select activities that they enjoy like watching TV, spending time of social media, or favorite hobby. However, just giving these things up for Lent does not serve its purpose if it is not being replaced with the things of God. Therefore, regardless of what you decided to fast this Lenten season, ensure that you fill that void with reading Scripture, Bible study, and/or prayer. In doing so, you will allow God to continue to create a clean heart in you as you feed on the very word of God.

God Bless you,
Pastor Bob

CALL-IN SERVICE: for those without internet, we offer a call-in service to be able to listen to the worship service each week. To join over the phone call: 518-318-7925.



January Worship

Attendance Average
In-person: 32 Online: 55

- Calculating attendance for online worship is difficult with our current technologies. As we look at new solutions for our online platform, if you watch the service during a different time than when live please comment or send us an email to let us know.
- Currently, we are not able to hold Sunday School on Sundays at the normal time. If you would like to consider holding class at a different time (i.e. day or time), please contact Pastor Bob to discuss.

Serving Joyfully



Acolytes:	Lay Readers:
02/07 - TBD	02/07 - Roger Williams
02/14 - TBD	02/14 - Karan Wilson
02/21 - TBD	02/21 - Kent Toms
02/28 - TBD	02/28 - Irene Purdy

Ushers: During the current in-person worship, the roles of ushers/greeters will be shared by Jim Kweeder, Mike Sharpe and Mike & Janet Rapalee.

Nursery: Not available at this time.

Giving Gladly



General Fund Stewardship in January

(required): \$14,875.10
 (received): \$ 9,695.18
 (over/short): (\$5,179.92)

Food Ministry: The donation bins are located outside the church every Saturday from 10 am—3 pm or you may bring your donations to Sunday service.

MISSIONS MESSAGE

For 2021 your Missions Committee will be bringing you “new things,” new ways to follow the Lord and be in ministry doing His good works. Please be in prayer for all of these opportunities to bless others in His name.

For the time being we ask that you continue to bring non-perishable food items on Saturday and Sunday.

NEW! Beginning soon, however, we will change this to request items from a list to stock a Blessing Box outside. More information will be provided when we are ready for the changeover.

NEW! Also we are working on a list of community ministries, and the ways you can support them. Please let us know about a ministry or organization that you already support so that we can include them as well. All of them are in need of your prayers.

NEW! Each quarter the church will focus on a single ministry. We will let you know what the ministry does and what items to bring in for them so that they are more able to carry out their mission.

In the first quarter we will spotlight Heart Havens. This is a nonprofit organization that provides residential support to adults with a developmental disability. Residents are supported as they find a way to make their goals and dreams happen, making decisions for themselves every day in a safe environment. Heart Havens operates homes in Richmond, Stuarts Draft, Lynchburg, and Virginia Beach. The home in Chester is fairly new and we hope to supply them with art supplies and “fun” stuff.

See below for items you can bring in January, February, and March.
 Put them on the food tree. (Only new items, please.)

ART SUPPLIES : Construction paper, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, stickers, coloring books, paint supplies, washable markers, modeling clay, etc.

FUN STUFF: DVDs, simple board games, jigsaw puzzles, outdoor games (cornhole, ladder golf, etc.)

In February, Pastor Bob will host
 a Lenten Bible Study beginning on February 23rd.
 Tuesdays @ 11:00 am and 7:00 pm
 Please sign up by February 7th.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan:

Join us in a plan to read the Bible in its entirety
 this year in chronological order.

This plan provides an easy to follow plan to read
 the Bible in the order that the events happened.

2/1/2021	Exodus 7-9
2/2/2021	Exodus 10-12
2/3/2021	Exodus 13-15
2/4/2021	Exodus 16-18
2/5/2021	Exodus 19-21
2/6/2021	Exodus 22-24
2/7/2021	Exodus 25-27
2/8/2021	Exodus 28-29
2/9/2021	Exodus 30-32
2/10/2021	Exodus 33-35
2/11/2021	Exodus 36-38
2/12/2021	Exodus 39-40
2/13/2021	Leviticus 1-4
2/14/2021	Leviticus 5-7
2/15/2021	Leviticus 8-10
2/16/2021	Leviticus 11-13
2/17/2021	Leviticus 14-15
2/18/2021	Leviticus 16-18
2/19/2021	Leviticus 19-21
2/20/2021	Leviticus 22-23
2/21/2021	Leviticus 24-25
2/22/2021	Leviticus 26-27
2/23/2021	Numbers 1-2
2/24/2021	Numbers 3-4
2/25/2021	Numbers 5-6
2/26/2021	Numbers 7
2/27/2021	Numbers 8-10
2/28/2021	Numbers 11-13

Let's Celebrate
 Happy Birthday

- 1- Jennie Burks
- 13- William Leneave
- 17- Pamela Kasky
- 24- Janet Greene



DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are working to publish an updated direc-
 tory. Please let us know if your information
 has changed.

Also, are you
 receiving the ALL CALL?



If not, please let us know.
 And please let us know if you
 do **not** want to receive the call.

Did you know...

The **Month of February** comes from the
 Latin word februa, which means "to cleanse."
 The **month** was named after the Roman
 Februalia, which was a **month**-long festival
 of purification and atonement.



February Birthstone
 Amethyst

February Flower
 Violet



PRAYING DAILY

For the HOMEBOUND:

Marie Clark
 Larry Howell
 Helen & Bill Leneave
 Sarah Scott
 Jean Sharpe
 Lois Thomas
 Walter Williams

For ALL Military, Including:

Daniel Brown Shannon Brown
 Jason Helhm Ryan Helhm
 C.J. Kovas Devin Lewerenz
 Sam Power Tyler Smith
 Jonathan Williams



For Missionary in Covenant Relationship with HUMC:

Clara Biswas - serving as a community worker in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

For Leaders of the UMC, our Bishop and District Superintendent

Teachers

First Responders

Our Police

Our Country

Our President

All Children

Healthcare Providers

Those affected by COVID

Government Leaders

Also pray for:

Irene Eagles
 Roger Gross
 Mike Sharpe
 Lynnwood Thompson

Rose Burton
 Joe Garcia
 Robin Reed
 Dorothy Smith
 Russell Williams

Wanda Caisse
 Maddy Gazzo
 Al Reid
 Lewis Smith

Jim Cheatam
 Janet Greene
 Judy Reid
 Joseph Sparkman

Dianne Conner
 Jeanette Gross
 Mary Sharpe
 Dorma Thompson

STICKY NOTES

Thank you to all of you who prayed for me, sent me cards, called me, sent cookies (yum!) and other gifts during my surgery in December and recovery. Each one of you is awesome and each gesture touched my heart.
 Your kindness will not soon be forgotten. I am feeling so much better and almost back to normal.

Love to all,
 Anne

Roger & I are excited to share the news that we are building a new home and will be moving in July to Fox Creek in Moseley.

Mary Francis

So excited to have this new bundle of love in our lives!! Thank you for your prayers and all the happy wishes!

Peace,
 Teresa

MANY THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS THAT WERE RECEIVED FOR JADA

MEET A MEMBER

Mary Gilma Burton Shand

Mary Gilma Burton was born January 6, 1944, delivered by Dr. Hagood at the Little Retreat Hospital in Halifax, Virginia. (This same doctor also delivered Roger Williams, but at a much earlier date.)

Gil was one of 11 children. She attended elementary school in Clover, VA. In 1962 she graduated from Halifax High School in Halifax, VA. Gil was a member of the 4H Club and FHA. However, due to living on a farm, she didn't get to participate in activities outside of school as she was expected to help take care of cattle, work in the tobacco field along with other chores. When she finished high school, she was employed at Burlington Mills as an inspector. During this time she took some classes in computer programming.

In 1963 she was introduced to her future husband by a mutual friend. In 1964 they were married at the Presbyterian Church in Fincastle, VA. The couple then moved to Roanoke, VA - the first of many moves.

Gil led a very exciting life as her new husband was a Virginia State Trooper. He worked undercover with a new identity which meant moves to Danville, Winchester, Fairfax and Manassas.

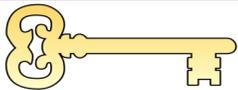
From this union came two children: a daughter that lives in Georgia and a son living in Chesterfield who works with the Chesterfield Police Department. She also has three grandchildren, who are the apple of Gil's eye.

When the time came to retire, Gil and her husband moved to Nags Head, NC to live the good life. While living in North Carolina Gil worked in retail and rentals loved it. Five years after her husband passed away Gil moved to this area to be near her elderly mother and mother in law.

In 2010 she became a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church. She has served on staff parrish, worship, kitchen, finance and the nursery committees. She has been a wonderful asset to our church. She is also a member of the Kingdom Seekers Sunday School Class.



When asked to name her favorite hymn, without a pause she said loud and clear, "Amazing Grace".



The key is this:

Meet today's problems with today's strength. Don't start tackling tomorrow's problems until tomorrow. You do not have tomorrow's strength yet. You simply have enough for today.

Max Lucado



*Would you like to contribute to The Grapevine? We welcome your news, articles, recipes, quotes, and jokes! To be included in the February Newsletter, please have your submissions to the church office no later than Monday, FEBRUARY 22nd. **THANK YOU!!***



FEBRUARY 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:45pm AA—Principles	2	3 10am Kingdom Seekers 7pm—Cub Scouts	4 7pm—Boy Scouts	5	6 9am—4:30 pm UMC District Training 10am –3pm Food Bank Collection
7 11am Sunday Worship	8 5:45pm AA—Principles	9 Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm—6pm	10 10am Kingdom Seekers 7pm—Cub Scouts	11 10am Knitting Gals	12	13 10am –3pm Food Bank Collection
14 11am Sunday Worship	15 5:45pm AA—Principles	16	17 10am Kingdom Seekers 7pm—Cub Scouts	18 7pm Administrative Council Meeting 7pm Order of the Arrow	19	20 10am –3pm Food Bank Collection
21 11am Sunday Worship	22 5:45pm AA—Principles	23 Lenten Study 11 am & 7 pm 7pm Methodist Men	24 10am Kingdom Seekers 10am Knitting Gals 7pm—Cub Scouts	25	26	27 10am –3pm Food Bank Collection
28 11am Sunday Worship						

UPCOMING SPECIAL DAYS & OBSERVANCES

DATE	OBSERVANCES
February 7	Black History Month
February 14	Transfiguration Sunday
February 16	Shrove Tuesday
February 17	Ash Wednesday
February 21	1st Sunday LENT
February 28	2nd Sunday LENT
March 7	3rd Sunday LENT
March 14	4th Sunday LENT
March 21	5th Sunday LENT
March 28	Passion/Palm Sunday
March 29—April 3	Holy Week
April 1	Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter

HOPEWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Return Service Requested