

# caring sharing daring

Greetings to all the members and friends of Green Street Church in the name of Jesus Christ!

## Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022!

We will begin the Lenten season with a collaborative Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m., March 2, 2022 at Hope UMC. I hope you will join us! Our worship team will be providing the music for this service.

Ash Wednesday services always remind me of the words of committal which say, "This body we commit to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." God spoke similar words to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, reminding them and us, that absent an act of God, humans are merely mortal creatures; a worthless pile of ashes and dust. Ashes are rubbish to be discarded and are generally to be avoided in this world. So why do gather and smear ashes on our foreheads during the Ash Wednesday service? Why would we want to remind ourselves of the cold hard truth of our mortality?

The answer is that while we gather to remember who we are as humans, we also gather to remember who God is, and what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ. We gather because there was in fact a mighty act of God that makes us so much more than mere ashes. God has given us a way out of our plight of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust". It is the way of the Cross. The death of Jesus was God's way of placing a sign of infinite value upon that which would otherwise be worthless. And all that God asks of us in this is that we accept his mercy, that we remember we are sinners, and repent and believe in his Son. And as we accept God's forgiveness, we are likewise instructed to forgive others and to help reconcile others to God.

*"In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us, we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:19-21*

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Office Hours Mon-Thur 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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Many Christians practice acts of piety during Lent. Many give up their favorite food items or favorite activities to promote holiness in their own lives. This has value to be sure. However, we need to be careful that our piety is not at the expense of others, or that our piety is not motivated by thoughts of human praise or reward. One way to safeguard against these extremes is to act out our roles as ambassadors for Christ. Let us not forget our important purpose of reconciling others to the body of Christ.

I encourage you to take a step up in your spiritual disciplines and to establish a system that will work for you. It may involve committing to regular worship. It may involve connecting with an existing small group for study and prayer. It may involve allocating more of your time and resources to serve others. It is hoped that these disciplines established during Lent will become incorporated into our daily lives going forward.

I pray that the season of Lent will be a blessing to you and that your spirits will be renewed as a result. Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor!

Blessings, Bryce



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### Celebrating “The Chosen” Potluck Sunday, March 6, 2022

Most of the small groups discussing *The Chosen* have wrapped up their discussions, so it is time for us to celebrate! Sunday, March 6, after worship, we will have a church-wide potluck to celebrate completion of *Season One*. There were 9 different small groups that met over the last 8 weeks to discuss these episodes! All who participated will agree that the series and discussions opened their eyes to the scriptures and made them think more deeply about Jesus and other Bible characters. We plan to begin a similar study and small group initiative based on *Season Two* next fall.

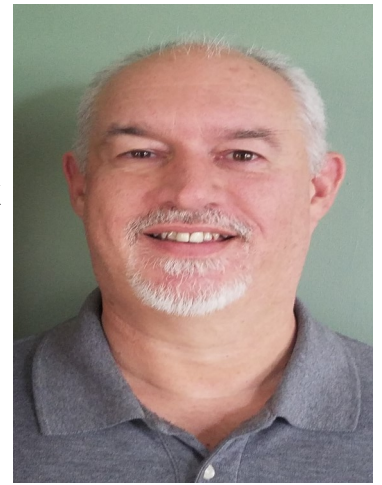
Credit Terri Barry for the idea and for organizing this potluck. Please contact Terri Barry at 616-648-5505 or [territbarry@gmail.com](mailto:territbarry@gmail.com) if you have questions. And, of course, you are invited and encouraged to attend this potluck whether or not you participated in *The Chosen* small groups.



Hello Green Street Family!

I have been serving as Worship Leader with our Praise Team since October. I want to thank the entire church family for your warm welcome and encouragement. I particularly want to thank the members of the Praise Team for contributing their time, talent and effort. I am grateful that I have been given this opportunity and look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you.

Thanks again, Carl Surma



# LENTEN FISH DINNER

Let Them Eat Fish (and Chicken)!

Friday, March 18 at 5:00 pm - Fish and Chips and Chicken dinner! There will be no set charge for this delicious meal but donations will be encouraged and accepted to support the Barry County Serenity Club. This event will be sponsored by the Green Street Men's Club.

March Meeting Dates

SPRC - Tuesday March 15 at 6:30pm  
Finance Committee – Monday March 21 at 6:30pm  
Trustees - Tuesday March 22 at 6:00pm  
Church Council - Tuesday March 22 at 7:00pm



## Hand2Hand Update

Thanks to all who continue to support the program financially and via in-kind giving! If you are interested in working in the program such as packing backpacks, please contact **Andi Schmidt** (Coordinator) at [andijene@yahoo.com](mailto:andijene@yahoo.com); or, 269-908-6881.

For March, we are needing Slim Jims, snack pack pudding, Yoohoo shelf-stable chocolate milk, and syrup (8 oz.).

## Creating a Space for Young Families and Children

At the most recent SPRC, Trustees and Church Council meetings, there was overwhelming support for re-purposing the upstairs coffee area into a space for young families and their children.

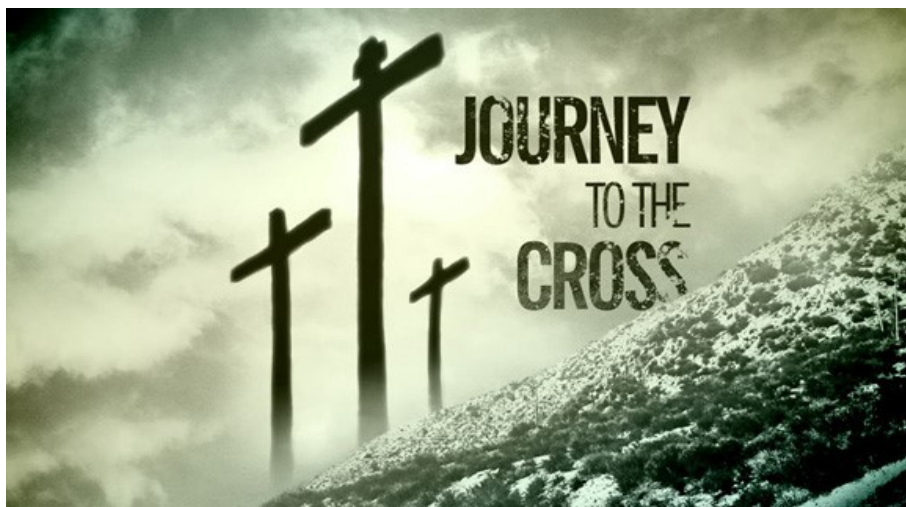
Thanks to all who suggested names and voted for a name for this new space! And the winner is...**Wiggle Room!**

Ed Solomon, Phil Hermenitt, Salina Eggers and Matt St. Jacques are on an ad hoc committee to outfit and re-purpose this space as the **Wiggle Room**. Please contact them if you have ideas you would like to share.



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**Address Service Requested**



**March 2022 Newsletter**

**Sunday Worship**  
**In-Person**  
**and**  
**Facebook LIVE**  
**10:00 AM**