



RECTORTOWN Reporter



540-364-1066
1-470-728-9060 - Pastor



www.rectortownumc.org



pastortaewonkang@gmail.com
secretary@rectortownumc.org



PO Box 301
Rectortown, VA 20140
3049 Rectortown Rd
Marshall, VA 20115



SPRING, LENTEN JOURNEY, & ASH WEDNESDAY

"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert".

Isaiah 43: 19 (NRSVUE)

March has arrived, bringing with it the anticipation of spring. Daylight saving time is about to begin, and while we may still see a spring snowfall once or twice, it cannot stop the season's arrival. In fact, a late snowfall serves as a messenger of spring.

As the season unfolds, the frozen ground softens, allowing new shoots to emerge. The brown and gray earth transforms into a lush green landscape. Trees begin to bud, daffodils bloom, and dogwood trees display their magnificent flowers. Spring is a season of renewal, reflecting the fullness of God's life. It is also the time of Lent and Easter.

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THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of preparation for the Easter celebration. The Gospels recount Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, where He preached, taught, and proclaimed the Good News. He shared the Last Supper with His disciples, prayed in Gethsemane, was betrayed, arrested, judged, beaten, and mocked. He carried His cross to Golgotha, where He was crucified and buried.

The tomb was sealed—but then, He was resurrected!

These events are deeply interconnected, much like patches sewn together in a quilt or threads woven into a single fabric. Each moment in Jesus' journey is unique, yet they form a complete and unified story—a story of grace, love, and renewal. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, new things have come into being." Likewise, Revelation 21:5 reminds us, "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

ASH WEDNESDAY & TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but before that, we observe Transfiguration Sunday. This day reminds us of Jesus' glorious transformation and calls us to refocus on Him. As followers of Christ, Transfiguration Sunday is an opportunity to reset our hearts and recommit to our faith.

This year, Transfiguration Sunday falls on March 2nd, preparing us to begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Lent is a time for deep reflection on Jesus' sacrifice and an opportunity to ask:

***Why did Jesus suffer and die for me, for you, for all?
and How can we share in His suffering?***

Jesus taught that discipleship requires self-denial, taking up our cross, and following Him. During Lent, we are encouraged to grow in faith through spiritual disciplines such as fasting, repentance, Scripture reading, meditation, charitable works, and giving. Let this season be meaningful and transformative for your soul.

ASH WEDNESDAY & TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

The name “Ash Wednesday” holds deep symbolism. Traditionally, ashes for the service come from burning the palm branches used on the previous year’s Palm Sunday. This reminds us that yesterday’s palms become today’s ashes, symbolizing our human mortality. Everything we possess eventually returns to dust.

Yet, Ash Wednesday is not just about endings—it is also about new beginnings. Genesis 2:7 tells us that God created humanity from dust, breathing life into us.

Similarly, Ash Wednesday invites us to begin anew in Christ. It is a time for purification, for letting go of what weighs us down, and for embracing God’s renewal.

Through Lent, we journey toward Easter, knowing that salvation comes to us through the cross of Christ. May this Lenten season be a time of reflection, renewal, and transformation. Amen!

UPCOMING SERVICES/ EVENTS



Join Us for Ash Wednesday Service
Begin your Lenten journey with us at our Ash Wednesday Service on **March 5th at 5:30 PM**. All are welcome to come, reflect, and recommit to walking with Christ during this sacred season. We hope to see you there!

Celebrate the joy of the Resurrection with us at our Easter Sunrise Service! Join us early on **April 20th** as we welcome the dawn with worship, Scripture, and song. Time will be determined closer to date. Experience the hope and renewal of Christ's victory over the grave.



Join us this May as we celebrate **RUMC's 244th Homecoming!** We invite you to bring your **friends, family, and neighbors** to share in this joyful gathering. Stay tuned for more details—we can't wait to celebrate with you!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jessica Lowry - 3rd

Yvie Frazier - 4th

Laura Thompson - 4th

Eleanor Dove - 5th

Jarod Hall - 7th

Butch Yowell - 11th

Sara Hall - 12th

Madeline Thompson - 21st

Noah Cooper - 21st

Skylar Riggio - 24th

Tom Thomas - 26th

Joice Fredenburgh - 29th

Nick Fallows - 30th

Richard Hylton - 30th

Ward Ponn - 31st

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None

MARCH MEETINGS & EVENTS

Admin Council

March 6th at 7pm

Worship

March 10th at 6pm

Bible Study

March 11th at 10:30
Fellowship Hall



Trustees

March 11th at 6pm

Daylight Savings Time

March 9th



St. Patrick's Day

February 17th

Fig Leaf

March 18th at 10am



RECTORTOWN UMC MISSION STATEMENT
SERVING GOD THROUGH **P**RAYER, **A**CTION,
AND **L**OVE THROUGH **S**ERVICE.