

The Messenger

Ash Wednesday

The Season of Lent is 40 days long (not including Sundays) and counts down the days until Easter. The days of Lent are meant to be a time of preparation for the joy of Easter. How does the church prepare for this joy? By penitence, confession, prayer, fasting, giving, and service to others.

And what better way to kick off the season of Lent, and to get our hearts and minds and spirits in the right attitude than by a worship service before God. This is the purpose of Ash Wednesday. It initiates Lent and initiates us.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the day Lent begins and from the ashes that are marked in the sign of a cross on the forehead. The ashes symbolize our life and death as stated by God when he sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

Our forefathers in faith understood this earthy spiritual connection. Abraham when he was pleading with God to save the righteous in the city of Sodom noted, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes." (Genesis 18:27). Job spent a long time complaining to God and when God finally answered him, Job realized he needed to humble himself. "Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.....therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:3 & 5) And elsewhere in the Biblical history, men and women of God marked themselves with ashes or dust to acknowledge their failings before God.

Ash Wednesday is an occasion to humble ourselves before God. We will not use sacks of dust and ashes to cover our bodies. We will only use a small amount of ash. Receiving the ashes is optional. I realize that being marked with ashes may not be in your prior religious practice. I did not grow up engaging in Ash Wednesday services. It is only as adult I have learned its rich Biblical roots and what a deep spiritual moment it can be. Therefore, I invite you to join me on Wednesday evening February 10 at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary as we come before the Lord in prayer, as we worship God's holiness and prepare for Easter.

Aloha ke Akua

Wesley

"As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:13-14)

Farewell Lunch and Lenten Activities

Aloha Farewell for Tara Argain

Our church office manager, Tara Argain is ending her time of service here at Ridgecrest UMC in mid Feb. We pray God's blessings upon her as she moves onto another position within our community. Tara has been a fabulous asset to the church's ministry and we will miss her.


On Friday February 12 there will be an appreciation luncheon for her at the Grapeleaf restaurant. The meal will begin at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to join in bidding Tara farewell with heartfelt appreciation. This is a no-host luncheon, but for seating accuracy, please contact Amy Ochoa 760-375-7434 if you plan to attend.



The Harris Missionary dinner and presentation Jan. 17

<u>Messy Church</u>	
Friday February 5	6:00-7:00 pm
Theme: Love	Storyteller: Kristin Hall


***Ash Wednesday
Worship***
Feb. 10 7:30 pm



Come join us as we begin the Lenten season with a service of imposition of ashes.



Lenten Soup Suppers start on February 17 and run each Wednesday through Lent until March 16. Meals are 6:00 -7:00 pm and are held in our Social Hall. Come eat and hear a devotion. Donations will be collected for a missions project. If you would like to help with a salad/soup or with set up/clean up please contact Ellen Hinman at 608-2208.



David Flanagan
Wednesday Feb. 3, 2016
10:00 am
at Ridgecrest UMC

Lenten Drive-Thru Prayer
Before heading off to work, school, or play every Wednesday during Lent, anytime between 6:30am through 7:30am, come pray with the pastor or church leader, all while staying in the warmth of your own car! Begins Feb. 17 and happens every Wednesday through March 23.

Drive Thru Prayer is located in the small parking lot attached to the sanctuary, on Felspar Street. This is a one-way parking area, so be sure to pull in on the driveway closest to Norma.

(And, did we mention there will be free doughnuts, coffee, and drinks delivered to your car as well?!)

FEBRUARY



- 1 Alexis Austin 3 Stenson Smith 5 Roger Becker
 Victoria Pillers 6 Bill Campbell Jeann Greene
 8 Meghan Branson 11 Amy Ochoa 12 Devin Estrada
 13 Isabella Frisbee 14 Ted Fiske Diann Severson
 15 Roxann Gibbs Debra Heflin Nancy Hodge Vivian
 Ryno 16 Kyle Hall 18 Aaron Wadelin 19 Pat Noland
 Jacob Van Meter Donna Weeks 20 Alexander Guess
 22 Connor Huey 25 Gunnar Gervais 26 Judy Campbell
 Taylor Frisbee Roberta Skinner 28 Gregory Mattis
 29 Joshua Boston



- 16 Ray & Carol Magorian
 20 Art & Lorelei Atencio
 29 George & Elsa Hennings

Office Hours:	Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Closed for Lunch 12:30-1pm
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Web:	http://www.umcrc.org
Facebook Page:	http://www.facebook.com/ridgecrestumc
Pastor:	Rev. Wesley Elmore (808) 482-1913
Office Manager:	Tara Argain
Director of Music:	Doug Hallenbeck
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries:	Amy Ochoa (760) 793-7850
Newsletter Editor:	Sarah Guess
Prayer Chain:	Church Office (760) 375-7434

--Mission Emphases--



Living Bread Ministry is a program started and supported by local churches and managed by the Salvation Army. The program provides food to the needy in crisis situations in Ridgecrest and the surrounding area. Please give generously and help our community feed the hungry.

--Also--



Terry Ratcliff will travel with a Christain non-profit organization called Hearts In Motion that has worked in Guatemala for over 20 years sharing God's Word by taking surgical, medical clinic, eyeglass and construction teams. They hold Vacation Bible Schools, create daycare and nutrition centers for preschool children and seniors. They also educate fire and rescue personnel.

Living Bread Ministry



Food Emphasis for February

The Missions Committee has elected to designate a specific food each month to be provided to the Salvation Army.

The food item for February is:

Canned Soup

Guatemala Mission Trip Rummage Sale

February 26 – 6:00 to 11:00 AM in the Social Hall There will be a rummage sale to help pay for expenses for the mission trip to Guatemala. The rummage sale will be held on Friday, February 26th, starting at 6:00 AM. Anything you might want to donate to the rummage sale will be accepted, so save your stuff and bring it to the Social Hall starting Sunday, February 21st. Please place your items behind the curtain. Set up will be Thursday, February 25th, starting at 8:00 am. If you would like to help set up – please come!!! If you have any questions or need help getting items to the Social hall, please contact Terry Ratcliff at 760-446-9652 or terry.ratcliff49@gmail.com or Gerry Rambo at 757-812-0034 or grambok@hotmail.com or the church office at 760-375-7434.

In Service In Our Church

Lock up for February:

February 7	February 21
Liturgists: 8:00 am: Dora Barnes 10:30 am: Kristin Hall Communion Servers: Available Ushers: James & Sarah Guess Jim & Mary Netzer Flowers: The Herr Family Counters: Kristin Hall, Olivia Zade, Gretchen Hawes Fellowship Hosts: Amy Ochoa, Patricia Pfahl	Liturgists: 8:00 am: Laura Miller 10:30 am: Melanie Branson Ushers: Stanley & Ellen Chassagne George & Elsa Hennings Flowers: Available Counters: Joanna Rindt, Sheri Boston, Calvin Johnson Fellowship Hosts: Julie Gervais, Tina Frisbee, Jeanne Backman
February 14	February 28
Liturgists: 8:00 am: Scouts and Bill Burns 10:30 am: Scouts and Bill Burns Ushers: Nina Lane & Family John & Paige Netzer Flowers: Available Counters: Hazel Hensley, Nina Lane, Barbara Johnson Fellowship Hosts: Mary Netzer, Barbara Jayne, Joanna Rindt	Liturgists: 8:00 am: Sandy Meech 10:30 am: Paul Clair Ushers: Monte & Tina Frisbee Ken Wetzel & Patty Wharton Flowers: Available Counters: Wes Hensley, James Guess, Nancy Hodge Fellowship Hosts: Mary Atkinson, Aida Stafford, Encar Card

Liturgists

If you are interested in being a liturgists, please feel free to sign up on the bulletin board by the church office. Do not feel obligated to do both services, just the service of your choice. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 375-7434

Altar Flowers

The flower chart is located on the bulletin board outside the main office. If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion please sign up.

Lost but Found

If you think you have lost something at the church, you may stop by the church office to see if it has been found.

Our Purpose and Mission

We are a richly blessed, loving and spiritual family of Christ who Shares God's love through our personal and congregational ministries. Our mission is to share Christ's love with all, through our tradition of scripture, sermons, music, and fellowship.

Choir Notes, VBS, Cookie Sale, Souper Bowl, & Scout Sunday



"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
Matthew 5:6

Lent is a journey that moves us towards the cross! In preparing the music for Lent we also want the spirit to lead us towards the cross and our risen Savior! I hope that each one of you will plan to attend as many services during this Lenten season and renew your commitment to the Easter story. Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10 and continues right through to Holy Week. We have selected a wonderful Cantata for Maundy Thursday and the choir is already beginning their individual preparation for that. We hope and pray that the music presented during this upcoming Lenten season will touch hearts and increase our faith!

It is fitting that Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday this year and we are planning some wonderful music for the 14th that will honor the love of Christ for all of us, and our love for each other! Please join us on the 14th for a very special service! This familiar verse really sums it up for me: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him, will not perish, but will have Eternal Life!" John 3:16

Blessings to you and yours during this hallowed Lenten season!

Doug Hallenbeck, Director of Music



Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars for VBS 2016 which is set for Tuesday, July 6th through Friday, July 9th, 2016 from 10:00am to 2:00pm each day, with lunch provided. Volunteers are asked to help plan and brainstorm for VBS, no experience needed! The next planning meeting is Sunday, April 3rd, 2016, after the 10:30am service, in the social hall.



UMW Valentine Cookie Sales

Every year The United Methodist Women hold a Valentine Cookie Box Sale, with lots of delicious – Homemade cookies. The money we make from the sale of the cookies goes to mission projects the UMW support. This is one of the major fund raisers for the year.

If you are available to pack the cookies, please come to the Social Hall on February 6, at 9:00! Everyone is invited to help pack up the cookies! (Sometimes there are broken left overs that need to be eaten!!) The cookies will be ready for pick up on February 7, after each Worship Service in the Social Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Janice Anderson at 760-375-8829 or Terry Ratcliff at 760-608-3281

Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive

On Feb. 7, please bring non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

During worship we will be having a fun contest between the 2 Super Bowl teams. Your food items will be placed in the "end zone" of the team of your choice. At the end of the contest we we will add up the pounds for each team to determine the winner!



On Sunday Feb. 14 We will celebrate Scout Sunday and recognize our Boy and Girl Scouts as they participate in worship.

Youth Events, MOPS and VBS Meetings



Young Adult Dinner Mixer

Young adults of the church, save-the-date for the spring dinner mixer at the Pizza Factory next month on Monday, March 21st, 2016, beginning at 6:15pm. Come have dinner on the ministry, and meet fellow young adults of the congregation. Free childcare is provided at church in Room #10, beginning at 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Amy in the church office before Sunday, March 20th if you plan to attend.



The Mothers of Preschoolers ministry is back in full swing for the spring semester, meeting most Tuesdays. MOPS is open to ladies that are expecting their first child, to moms with small children at home. There is no cost to participate. Tuesday Feb. 2, the topic for the mothering seminar is on peacefully co-parenting with your spouse, from 9:00am to 11:00am, in the social hall. Tuesday Feb. 9, is the mommy-and-me Valentine's party in room #10, from 10:00am to 11:00am, please RSVP to Amy before the 9th if you plan to attend. Tuesday Feb. 16, the topic for the mothering seminar is all about Lent and how to prepare for Easter with your children, 9:00am to 11:00am, in the social hall. Then, on Tuesday Feb. 23, is another mommy-and-me playdate in room # 10 from 10:00am to 11:00am, where we will be celebrating Read Across America week, and Dr. Suess' birthday. Again please RSVP to Amy prior to that event. Mothering seminars with optional childcare are held the first and third Tuesday of every month. Other events, such as mommy-and-me playdates, are scheduled on non-seminar Tuesdays.

Trustee's Corner

Another BIG couple of months! I feel like I should be giving out gold stars to the "Trustee of the Month." Of course, we don't do that, but in October we thanked Joe Hansen for getting the playground fence and poles repaired and back into good shape. In November we're happy to thank Ray Miller for spearheading the grinding of tripping hazards on our sidewalks and South parking lot. He and his helpers picked the rainiest day in recent memory to take a heavy power grinder to the various edges and corners of concrete that have probably tripped us all.

Bill Burns has taken the lead in our bridge replacement and flattening effort. He is gathering architectural ideas and will be working with potential contractors to complete this work over the next few months. Even Tara, our office manager is becoming a trustee as she asks questions about unusually large property tax bills. We've found, unbeknownst to current trustees, that our large and growing tax bill is nearly all driven by rapidly rising sewer fees. There was a 50% increase in the fee this year over last, prompting the questioning of our tax bill. Turns out that the bill is computed from our water usage as recorded by our single water meter. Talks with the city and a visit to the water district have both yielded the same answer. We should invest in a separate meter, free of sewer fees, to measure landscape water, and a second meter to measure only the water delivered to our facilities. This is hammered home by seeing the plans for increases in both the sewer fees and water fees. I think we would all rather have our offerings go to more worthwhile causes. Look for more on this in the future.

In God's Service,
Monte Frisbee
760-375-8353