



Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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Spring News 2017

Lent and Beyond

by Rev. Colleen Samson

Upper Room Ministries on-line gives a good explanation of Lent 101. If you are not familiar with Lent as a season of the Christian calendar, then let me explain. You have probably heard people saying, "I'm giving _____ up for Lent." Yes, there are people who do that. The reason for giving something up is to make room for more of God. This practice is called *fasting*. I have fasted at times in my life. It does not have to be chocolate. You can fast from Facebook or TV. Anything that takes time away from God is a good thing to give up for Lent. You can also add something to your life that makes time for God, like walking, meditating, or studying the Bible.

When is Lent? It is the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays, because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from March 1 (Ash Wednesday) to April 16 (Easter), 2017.

At Bethany, our study during Lent is a book entitled "Gifts of the Dark Wood" by Eric Elnes. This spiritual reading explores events that happen in our lives and how we can find God in even difficult and painful experiences. The Sunday Morning Adult Discussion group will study in depth the concepts that Eric Elnes presents. Our worship experience during Lent will also reflect on Elnes' concepts.

We will "EMERGE" after Lent into Easter and the season that follows. According to Marcia McFee of the Worship Design Studio, "EMERGE" features the image of the butterfly that has long been a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus as well as the resurrection of believers as we emerge from the power of death. "EMERGE" examines our own transformations from cocoons and tombs to the unfurled beauty of all God calls us to be.

Bethany is a community of justice and peace serving the needs of people on their spiritual journey.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Every Sunday Morning

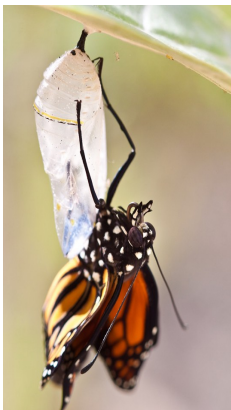
Adult Faith Formation 9:30
Worship Service 10:30



Scriptures

- March 5 Matthew 6: 25-34
- March 12 Psalm 22: 1-11
- March 19 Revelation 10: 1-7
- March 2 Psalm 42
- April 2 Matthew 4: 1-11
- April 9 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
- April 16 Jeremiah 31: 1-6
- April 23 John 20: 19-31
- April 30 Luke 24: 13-35
- May 7 John 11: 1-44
- May 14 Luke 1: 5-25
- May 21 John 14: 15-21
- May 28 Acts 1: 6-14
- June 4 John 20: 19-23

EMERGE



From the Worship Design Studio

*Begins at
10:30 am
Easter Sunday
With
Tombs and Cocoons
Dare to Fly High and
Claim New Possibilities*

Meet and Eat

Watch the bulletin for the date, time and place for this fellowship gathering in April.

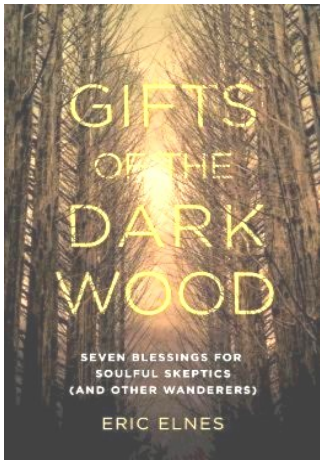
Lent And Easter Services

Ash Wednesday Service at Bethel Reformed UCC with other LINC churches March 1, 7:00 pm.

Maundy Thursday Service at Bethany UCC with other LINC churches April 13, 7:00 pm.

Palm Sunday April 9, New Members joining: Cindy Canipe & Vicki Smith-Canipe

Easter Sunrise Service at Bethany UCC, 7:00 am. Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.



LENTEN SERIES

- March 5 The Gift of Uncertainty
- March 12 The Gift of Emptiness
- March 19 The Gift of Being Thunderstruck
- March 26 The Gift of Getting Lost
- April 2 The Gift of Temptation
- April 9 The Gift of Misfits
- April 16 Easter Sunday
Tombs and Cocoons

Council News

The Council voted to replace the church and parsonage well tank and repair a leak at the cost of \$700.

A dead tree in the front yard of the parsonage will be removed. The Council is waiting for a third bid.

After School All Stars

Our After School All-Stars are moving right along with good grades and good behavior leading into spring.

We just had progress reports last week. End-of-grade testing will be here before we know it!

We have spent a lot of time outside because of the really mild weather which is great for practicing multiplication daily in groups along with reading logs and normal homework. Always a good thing to have lots of fresh air and plenty of exercise. That is especially true with all the strep and flu that is going around the county.

Wishing you a happy, healthy spring!

Ms Lee and Ms Jeannine



From The Property Committee

Six monuments in the church cemetery that had moved out of line on their bases were straightened by Fleming Monuments in order to prevent them from toppling. The amount of \$265 was paid from the Cemetery Fund.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		April	
	3	Edith Grimes	
March		May	
20	Gina Beard	9	Lou Grandmaison
27	Jerry Pope	27	Peyton Laney
29	Beth Cline		



TOWN HALL MEETINGS
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE Presents
TOWN HALL MEETINGS "Lenten Series."
STATE OF THE CHURCH IN SOCIETY!

How is God calling us to address the issues of Our Day?
How Are We the Church Together for Such a Time as This?

Come! Let us Listen, Talk, and Discern!

All voices are welcomed and valued!

ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS:



Trinity UCC 217 2nd Ave NE, Conover, NC 28613 03/21/17

Holy Covenant UCC 3501 W WT Harris Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28269 03/22/17

Church of the Master UCC 2230 29th Ave Dr NE, Hickory, NC 28601 03/29/17

- It is not about Us vs. Them:
- Liberals vs. Conservatives
- Blacks vs. Whites
- Democrats vs. Republicans
- Young vs. Old



All the meetings will begin at 7:00 pm