

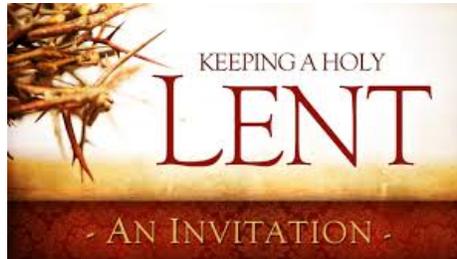


# The Tower Call

## First United Methodist Church of London 2017 - The Year of Deepening Faith March 2017

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The forty days of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1. Traditionally, Christians have understood Lent to be a time when unneeded things are stripped away in order to remind us of our neediness before and for God. Christians still do this today, giving up meat or chocolate, or abstaining from alcohol or watching television.

By taking away things that divert our attention and feed our desires, the season of Lent invites us to attend to what is really happening on the inside of our souls—and to have our needs met by God first and only.

It can also be a time to add behaviors that will be pleasing to God. Here are forty ideas to add to your observation of Lent.

1. Pray for your enemies
2. Take a walk and pray for your neighborhood.
3. Don't turn on the car radio. Talk with God instead.
4. Give \$20 to a non-profit of your choice.
5. Take 5 minutes of silence at noon.
6. Look out the window until find something of beauty you had not noticed before.
7. Give 5 items of clothing to Goodwill
8. Take a whining or complaining-free day
9. Do someone else's chore
10. Buy a few \$5 food gift cards (fast food) to give to the local food pantry
11. Call an old friend
12. Pray for everyone on our Prayer Request list
13. Read Psalm 139
14. Pay a few sincere compliments
15. Volunteer for something
16. Educate yourself about human trafficking
17. Forgive someone
18. Fast for a day or part of a day

*(Continued on Page 4)*



### Recurring Bible Study Meetings

- Bible Study with  
Pastor Steve  
Wednesday Evenings  
at 7pm
- Men's Group  
1st & 3rd  
Saturday Mornings  
at 7:00am



## A Message from Pastor Steven...

Dear Friends,

As I write, we are quickly approaching Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season, the forty days and six Sundays that lead us to the glory of Easter morning and the gift of Christ's Resurrection. This is a season we have walked before, a season that, I believe, affords us the opportunity to grow in our faith, as we move ever more closely into the wonder of Christ's love. Traditionally, we are invited to use the forty days of Lent as a sacred time, employing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation, self-examination, service, and fasting. These tried and true disciplines, when earnestly embraced, move us into the heart of God, opening our spirits to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the gift of God's love, a love that gives completely, serving our needs even unto death, a love that will not and cannot be stymied by anything, continuing to give of itself beyond the grave and into eternity. That is a powerful love. That is God's love for us in Jesus Christ. That is the love we are called to have and to share with one another. It is the love that is our faith.

In this Year of Deepening Faith, you and I have the opportunity to look upon the spiritual disciplines of Lent with focused purpose. Embracing the spiritual disciplines of the season we have the opportunity to better define our individual relationship with Christ, and, through seeking to commit ourselves more fully to our faith, we have the opportunity to walk the Lenten path with a richer appreciation of what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Our Year of Deepening Faith Promise Card is also a tool we can use to enrich our Lenten journey, preparing us more fully to live into a deeper faith for the rest of the year. We can faithfully walk the Lenten path by committing ourselves to a journey of deepening faith; by faithfully praying for our church every day; by regularly participating in worship; by happily giving of ourselves by volunteering to serve; by joyfully giving to the financial needs of our church; by sharing Christ's love with others; by upholding our children and youth ministries; by committing ourselves to reading God's Word daily; by endeavoring to meet whatever needs we see within our church and our community; and by earnestly examining ourselves and the promises we make to God. When we invest ourselves in the invitation of Lent, when we look hard at all the wondrous ways God has invested in us, we soon discover a clearer understanding of the extent of God's love in Jesus Christ. With that clearer understanding of God's love, our own love for Christ grows leading us to an Easter morning that can literally explode with joy.

Friends, let's agree to purposefully walk together with Jesus through these forty days and six Sundays of Lent, growing in faith together, growing in service together, growing in love together. Then, together, let's determine to arrive at the dawning light of Easter morning with hearts bursting with love; love for God; love for Christ; love for one another; love for the whole of Creation.

Blessings in all the Colors of Faith,



The Youth Group of First United Methodist Church of London

**A super huge THANK YOU for all of the support for our sub sale and for the Giving Tree!!**

## **MARCH Schedule**

Ash Wednesday

5- Jr. J Walkers after worship, J Walkers @6:00

11/12- 30 Hour Fast! Details to come in emails!

19-Bluebird

25-Dinner Theater, details to come in emails!

26- No J Walkers

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



## MISSION AND SERVICE



The Mission and Service Ministry Team has partnered with local schools to develop a new mission for our church - **Seeds of Hope** - which will be helping schools with clothing donations.

We will be collecting new shoes sizes youth 1 and up, new or gently used jeans and gym pants with elastic bands sizes 5 and up and new underwear and socks.

Bring your donations to the church, and the ministry team will deliver items to the schools.

It is a blessing to have a ministry every member of our congregation can participate in for the

benefit of the children in our community.

*(continued from Page 1)*

19. Go on an internet-free day
  20. Change one light in your house to a compact florescent
  21. Check out morning and evening prayer either in a devotional or online
  22. Ask for help
  23. Tell someone what you are grateful for
  24. Introduce yourself to a neighbor
  25. Read Psalm 121
  26. Bake a cake or bread or cookies and give them away
  27. Take a no-shopping day
  28. Light a candle for someone who needs healing
  29. Light a candle for your own spiritual growth
  30. Write a thank you note to someone who has touched your life or your heart in some way
  31. Donate to Sufficient Grace
  32. Donate art supplies to a pre-school or elementary school
  33. Read John 8:1-11
  34. Invite a friend to worship.
  35. Take a TV-free day
  36. Confess a secret
  37. Take a no-sugar day—where else is there sweetness in your life?
  38. Donate to Seeds of Hope
  39. Visit someone in a nursing home
  40. Pray for peace—in our hearts, in our homes, in our country, and in our world
- Decide which of these practices you'll keep for good.

*Inspired by Cheryl Boettcher Tarsala*

## NEW PRAYER GROUP

Luke 11:1-4 illustrates the disciples coming to Jesus and asking him "Lord, teach us a prayer to recite just as John taught one to his disciples."

We must be open, receptive and in the habit of quiet listening in God's presence for him to guide us in His will. God offers us this invitation to a relationship that is eternal and immediate at the same time. Praying helps us to center ourselves in God's Holy Word so we might live a transformed life, a life lived out in the everyday experiences of our existence.

Each day we should invite God into our lives. John Wesley used a prayer each morning to connect him to God and to carry him through the day.

*"Loving teacher, come and make your home in our hearts this day. Dwell within us all day long and save us from error or foolish ways. Teach us today to do no harm, to do good and assist us so that we may stay in loving relationship with you and our neighbor. Help us today to be an answer to another's prayer so that we may be one of your signs of hope in the world you love. Amen."*

Please join us for a time of quiet prayer for our nation, Bishop, Pastor and our church each Sunday in the Chapel at 9:10am for 30 minutes during Lent. Drop off the kids for Sunday School, grab a cup of coffee in the Rudorah Welcome Parlor and come join us!

## 1000 HOURS OF PRAYER

1. Jesus' Promise of the Holy Spirit, Read John 14:15-21

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" John 14:27

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us there is one true God. He exists eternally as three distinct persons but all equally God. All scripture is "breathed out" through the Holy Spirit of Truth. Lord, let your Holy Spirit of Truth make the Bible come to life so I may understand your words more clearly.

2. Union with Christ, Read John 15:1-16:4

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5

What does it mean to live a fruitful life, a life that matters? Filled with the Holy Spirit, followers of Jesus "remain" in Jesus - like a branch to a vine - in faith. Pray to be empowered to "bear fruit" to show the world the love and truth of God, love others and make disciples.

3. Christian Certainty, Read 1 John

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him." 1 John 4:9 *(continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

We are all imperfect, but we can allow the Holy Spirit of God to live within us, who is perfect. This is God's gift to us. Pray to experience a closer relationship with our perfect and Holy God through Jesus Christ, the son.

#### 4. The Holy Spirit's Ministry, Read John 16:5-33

"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13

Jesus doesn't want us to just survive this world but to thrive in this world. We can only do that if we are being guided by the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Advocate of the loving God. Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with desire to know your will in my life.

## **Making A Difference**

By Rev. Timothy Bias, District Superintendent, Columbus Area South

**It was lunchtime. Linda had bought a hamburger in a crowded McDonald's, surrounded by strangers. She and her husband had moved to California a month earlier because of his new job and Linda was lonely. Standing alone in McDonald's made her feel more isolated. No one's eyes met, which reminded her of her own "disconnectedness." As she stood holding her tray, no one offered to share a table; so she waited for an empty one and finally sat down, brooding silently over her situation.**

**Suddenly, a middle-aged man walked in and called out, "Is there a Bob Maxwell here?"**

**A man at a nearby table stood up, looking puzzled. "Yes? I'm Bob Maxwell."**

**The two men huddled in a brief discussion and the middle-aged man left after a hearty handshake and a slap on the back. Bob Maxwell sat down, shaking his head. "Can you believe that?" he kept saying. "I feel like I've met the original Good Samaritan." It turned out that he had dropped his bank envelope in the parking lot. Over two hundred dollars and two blank checks were inside.**

**Suddenly everyone was smiling, commenting on the man's good deed. A lady at the table next to Linda said, "Amazing, isn't it? How one person changed the atmosphere of this whole place."**

**As Linda looked up, she saw a woman who was waiting for a table. Catching her eye, Linda patted the empty chair near her and said to the woman, "Would you like to share my table?"**

**It is amazing how one person can change things. Have you stopped to consider what impact you have on the situations in which you find yourself? Consider how much a kind word, or a helping hand, or a reassuring smile would change the atmosphere of so many places and the attitudes of so many people.**

**What impact could you have upon someone who feels 'disconnected,' or lonely, or forgotten? What would happen if you made a phone call or wrote a note of encouragement, or made a brief visit this week? It is amazing how one person can change things.**

**As Christians, we know that one person has made a significant difference in our lives. Because of the difference Jesus Christ has made in our lives, we have the opportunity and the privilege to make a difference in the lives of the people around us.**

**Take the next two minutes to think of one person who is "disconnected" from the family or the church or from God. Pray for that person. Pray for his or her well-being. Decide upon one act of kindness that would make a difference in his or her life. Now, one day this week, make that difference become real.**

**What difference will you make? I pray that your Christian witness will make a difference in your community, in the Capitol Area South District, and around the world.**

## Prayer Requests

### Continual

Carolyn Blausler, Bev Dhume, Doris Foster, Betty Garrett,  
 Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Phyllis & Ted Hunter,  
 Connie Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith,  
 Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

### Current

Buddy Byers, Chris Carter, Nancy DeCamp,  
 Madelyn Duffey, Bob Edwards, Howard Emswiler,  
 Connie Hileman, Coda Morrison, Shuna Smith,  
 Caleb White, Gerald "Butch" Yakubik, Angie Yoder

### Serving on Active Military Duty

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp,  
 Drew Deck - Afghanistan, 82nd Airborne,  
 Sgt Mathew Rowley

*Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives*



Zoo Crew members Ray Justice, Rick Dickerson, Joe Brackett, Randy Crisp and Jim Weimer repair chair caddy.



On February 19 we celebrated Boy Scout Sunday with Scouts including Garrett Weldon, pictured here, participating in the worship service.

**Staff**

Resident Bishop.....Bishop Gregory Palmer  
Capital Area South Superintendent.....Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias  
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Steven J. Rodgers  
Executive Assistant.....Gail A. Baker  
Director of Youth Ministries.....Chez Gorman  
Director of Music Ministries and Organist .....Michael Schreffler  
Children’s Choir Director.....Eryn Sandhage  
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker  
Housekeeping.....Dale McNeal

**March Worship Leaders**

**Liturgist**

Steve Adams

**Ushers**

Jack Rowley, Chair  
Nancy Rowley , David Junk  
Ric Bell, Ken Davis

**Acolytes**

Jamie Davis and Hannah Risner

**Sound & Video Technician**

Brian Benedum, David Cover

**For Pastoral Needs:** Pastor Steven: Parsonage 740.852.1294.....or.....Cell Phone 614.371.0364



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**SAVE THE DATE - SPRING BAKED STEAK AND PORK TENDERLOIN DINNER**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017**