

The Chimes

We Prepare For a Forty Day Journey: The Journey of Lent

Forty is an important number in the Bible. The Hebrews spent forty years in the wilderness before crossing into the Promised Land. Jesus spent forty days fasting in the wilderness, preparing for his ministry, before the temptations of Satan. And so, we begin a forty day (not including Sundays) journey from Ash Wednesday, on February 10, to Easter, on March 27.

Forty days is also important because a period of forty days marks how long (roughly) it takes something to become a habit.

Traditionally, many Christians give up something for Lent. Unfortunately, what once was a purposeful, intentional season of sacrifice has often become little more than a new self-help program. Articles abound in both Christian and non-Christian sources about how you can give up fattening foods and drinks for Lent. They approach Lent as if it is a season to kick-off your weight loss goals. Vaguely spiritual gurus will encourage you to give up things like anger and resentment for Lent. While these may be lofty goals, the intention again is to help you be healthier and happier. The magazine *Christianity Today* has for several years tracked the most popular things given up for Lent. This list is depressing for anyone wanting to maintain the importance of the season. (Twitter, Lent, Homework, Religion, Sobriety, Catholicism, Breathing, and God all rank in the Top 50.)

The purpose of this journey is not self-help, weight loss, or making a better you. The purpose of the Lenten journey is to focus our hearts and minds on God this season. The tradition of giving up something for Lent is intended to cause an intentional sacrifice. Then the time, money, energy spent on whatever was given up should be focused on repentance and your faith. That is the purpose of Lent—to prepare our hearts for the Easter miracle.

I invite you to take a forty day journey this Lent. I do not care what it is. Pick a new spiritual discipline. Read a forty day book focused on your faith. Commit to reading the Bible in forty days. Give up a vice, and spend that time in prayer and that money in mission. Commit to a new devotional practice every day. Commit to a new expression of your faith (one year, I received a handwritten letter from someone who was committed to saying “thank you” to all those who had influenced her faith in Lent—what a powerful practice!). Commit to something that will help you center yourself on God during this next season.

Then let me know what that practice is. You can e-mail me, text me, or tell me at church how that discipline has strengthened your faith. I will be praying for you throughout your journey.

Let us not waste these forty days, but use them to focus ourselves on what is truly important—our journey with Christ to the cross.

Pastor Jonathan

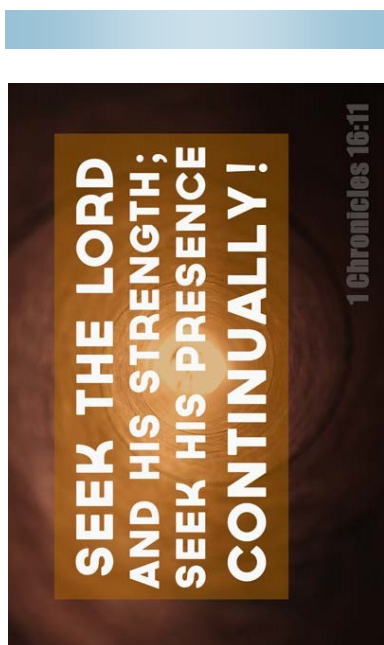


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Special points of interest

- Our Confirmands
- A Stewardship Story
- Budget Bonus



February 7— Living your Life at Eleven—"Do Something". 1 Samuel 13:23-14:3, 6-15, 20-23. Centers on the idea that God calls us to be active as Christians, and we cannot maximize our lives without action.

February 14—Luke 4:1-13-What's the Point?-The temptations that Jesus faced are not just temptations of that time and place. We face the same temptations as a church: temptations to trade our calling for security or recognition.

February 21—Luke 13:31-35—Embracing Prophets-Jesus laments over Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the one place that most should have welcomed Jesus. Yet they turned him away because he upset the status quo. Too often our church becomes the defender of how things are or how they used to be.

February 28—Luke 13:1-9-Bearing Fruit-The parable of the fig tree reminds us that we are not here just for our own comfort and private spiritual nurturing. We are expected to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "
-Matthew 4:4



It is time once again to sign up for our annual Lakeside for Youth trip. Lakeside is a retreat experience for high school youth from Sunday, June 26—Saturday, July 2. All high schoolers are eligible to attend. This includes incoming freshmen through graduated seniors. There is a \$100 deposit per student required at time of registration. (Due by March 15th). We will be participating in several fundraisers to help offset the cost of the trip. Please pick up a registration packet from the church office.

May 1, 2016
 One Service
 10:00 am
 Lunch following
 provided by the
 UMW



Confirmation Class 2016

Jarrett Jolliff
Max Haushalter
Mitch Jennings
Lily Osborn
Anna Longbrake
Mary Heilman
Callie Wright
Keegan Wright
Lenore Kohl
Devan Dulin
 Confirmation Sunday
 May 15, 2016

Living Legacies

Thank You!

This is the first in a series of articles prepared by the Stewardship Committee and designed to communicate the role of First Church's generous stewards who help advance the mission of our church. How can stewardship be defined and how can each of us become better stewards?

What is a "steward"? The UMC General Conference defines stewardship as the devout investment or use of money, time and ability. In biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God's children, we deem God to be the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God and desire to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God". (1 Peter 4:10a)

Here at First Church we have many who give of their time, money and ability. This article focuses on one member who described her former self as "land rich, money poor".

In 1881, Bob Hamilton's grandparents were married and the bride's father gave 80 acres of land to the young couple as a wedding gift. Five generations and 132 years later, Gladys Hamilton, Bob's wife, and their son Craig made the difficult decision to sell the family farm. A monetary gift to the church was the result of this (financial) decision by Gladys and her son. Gladys was very aware of the Trustees' "wish

list" and was determined to provide the means necessary to meet those needs. As stewards of the church's property, the Trustees manage a long list of necessary maintenance and improvement needs. Gutter leaks, mold in the kitchen, stained glass window updates, and interior and exterior painting were just a few of the many items on their list.

How does Gladys feel about her decision? She is "tickled pink"! She feels good about being able to see her gift at work. Knowing what needed to be done is one thing, but actually working with the Trustees to check items off their list has created a sense of contentment and satisfaction for Gladys. She enjoys knowing that her gift has directly contributed to the longevity of our church structure.

Craig and Gladys are living legacies and we thank them for their stewardship.

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.

— John Wesley

Candy Callinan gave the 2015 special membership pin to Cheryl Langdon on Sunday, January 24th. Cheryl has done so much in our church. She updated many things in the kitchen off the lounge, helped give new life to the lounge, helped with funeral dinners, and kids club, just to name a few. Many thanks to Cheryl.

My heart is filled with joy as we receive your Advent gift. Your hearts are so giving. I truly worship, fellowship and pray with the hands and feet of Christ. We continue to pray for your church and ask that God continues to Bless You!

Robin Oates and Sara Brown
(Love, Inc.)

Thanks to all for the tremendous response for the annual cookie walk. We collected \$2,037.00. Helping Hands, Love Inc., Soup Kitchen, Kids Club, and the Community Helping Hands all received \$400.00. Thank you again for your generosity!

The UMW

TRAIN UP
a child
IN the WAY
He should go
& when he is OLD
HE will NOT
DEPART from IT.
PROVERBS 22:6

Onefund Meal

February 28th
12:00

"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."
Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



Ash Wednesday Service

February 10th
7:00 am

Preschool News

I so enjoyed worshipping the Lord with you last Sunday. I was able to break away from my regular duties at my church and share my testimony here at 1st United Methodist in the services. I love your church family and felt right at home. I praise the Lord for you and pray you continue to be a blessing in your community. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your preschool.

We have welcomed 2016 in our preschool class on a very busy note. Since Christmas we started talking about Jesus and His life here on earth during our Bible class. We have started talking about health and things like our taste buds...tying that in with our Bible time: sweet and salty (life preserving words) verses bitter or sour (ugly words). In our language arts/phonics time we continue to work our way through the alphabet, recognizing, saying, and writing letters. Last week was the letter N. Nicky Narwhal was our animal for the week. I was

very impressed with the many students who already knew what a narwhal is...wow! My students are smart! In math we continue to work through numbers and are up to 15. The students are connecting the pattern to making new numbers, shapes, colors, money, days of the week, and months of the year.

The Smart Board has been a great tool for pulling up nursery rhymes and learning games for the students to use as they work on new lessons. A trip to the fire station is planned for the week as we talk about fire safety. Please feel free to look on Facebook as we post pictures of the fun time spent by all! Thanks again for your prayers, donations, and support.

Miss Lisa



2/12 Patty Good
3481 TR 125
Dola, Oh 45835

2/25 Carol and Janet
Boecher
407 E. Carrol St. Kenton

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?

Say it with
FLOWERS

Sign up to provide flowers for the altar

Youth and Family Ministries Position



"We're looking for someone with a doctorate in Christian education and five years of experience, but we'll settle for someone with a van."



A little over ten years ago several young mothers found themselves commiserating on a variety of topics. From this grew the idea of forming a women's Sunday school class where these topics could be explored and supported through the teachings from Scripture. Thus Sarah Circle was reborn not only as a UMW circle but also a class on Sunday mornings.

As a circle, the group works to meet the needs of the church. UMW Circles minister through the church by helping with fundraising meals, The Mother-Daughter Banquet, cookie hour and raising money for UMW Outreach programs, band meals, Kid's Club, and more.

Sunday mornings we gather in the lounge at 10:00 to discuss how the application of Scripture can enhance our daily lives. Our studies have been done through books by authors, books of the Bible and through discussion topics. The uniqueness of the Sarah Circle class comes through a sisterhood where we can openly share our struggles, our joys and our trials, and rejoice with one another in our victories. If you are searching for a Sunday school group, come join us or talk with one of our members. Each and every one of us will go through situations in life; Sarah Circle seeks God's direction and guidance while offering support to one another so that we never have to experience them alone.

Hope to meet you soon!

PRAYER REQUEST

Marilyn Arn
Teresa Haudenschield
Karlee Hooker
Jane McGee
Christine Stahler
Sonny Weatherholtz
Sawyer Wright
Bobbi Tandon
Peggy Wills
Karl McNeal
Bill Hommel
Tyson Kelly
Pam Tiffany
Elinor Barrett
Susie Heilman



The UMW will be delivering Valentine lunches to our shut-ins on February 11th at 11:00 am. If you would like to help deliver lunches, please contact Mary Lou McNeal.

Welcoming Christa Quail!

Our church recently hired Christa Quail to fill our children's ministry position. Christa will be working part-time in charge of selected children's ministries, including Vacation Bible School.

We are so happy to have her on board!



Our young adults are meeting once a month. The intention of the lifegroup is to provide young adults with a chance to get to know one another, establish some relationships outside of church, and serve and grow in faith together. Our first meeting, a game night, was held in January. Our next meeting is Saturday, February 27 at 5:30pm in the church lounge. We will be getting to know one another and talking about our place in the church. Bring a dish to share. **Childcare is provided.** Hope to see you there!



KENTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSIONAL BUDGET 2016

Our Plan of Ministry

- A. To provide passionate, meaningful, life-changing worship every week of the year (WORSHIP).

In 2015, we worshipped together 113 times. We hold two worship services every week, averaging 183 (and as high as 205) people in worship. Our music program continues to be a blessing. The music provided by our praise band, bell choir, and chancel choir is worshipful and inspiring. Our Christmas Eve services continue to be a highlight of many families' Christmas celebrations.

In 2016, we expect to hold approximately 115 worship services. Our goal is to average 200 in worship, across both services. We want to hold at least 10 baptisms and 10 first time commitments of faith. We continue to invest into our music programs, and into our technology, to make worship accessible to a wider number of people.

WORSHIP BUDGET = \$87,529 (28% of TOTAL)

(This total includes portions of pastor and staff salaries and compensation, music ministries, office supplies, cleaning supplies, utilities, and building expenses.)

- B. To provide intentional, nurturing faith development for persons of all ages (DISCIPLESHIP).

We believe that a commitment of faith is the beginning of your journey, not the end. In 2015, we offered 18 different small group experiences to grow in faith. This includes Sunday School classes, women's groups, Bible studies, youth small groups, Kids' Club, and more. We also offered a Vacation Bible School that brought more children into our churches. Over half of our Kids' Club and Middle School small groups have no affiliation with the church.

Our goal in 2016 is to offer 20 small groups, and enroll approximately 120 people in some type of faith forming group. We hope to create a Life Group for young adults and families. We start confirmation classes in January. We hope to create a new Sunday School class for young adults. We aim to expand our youth and children's ministries by working with other churches in our area, and reaching out to families not connected with the church.

DISCIPLESHIP BUDGET= \$98,139 (31% of TOTAL)

(This total includes portions of pastor and staff salaries and compensation, youth ministries, children's ministries, office supplies, cleaning supplies, utilities, and building expenses.)

- C. To witness to our faith in risk-taking, world-transforming mission and service beyond our walls (MISSION).

We take seriously Christ's commandments to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth, and to love others as we love ourselves. In 2015, we sponsored a mission trip to Good Works, Inc. Our missions team also supported Love, INC, Imagine No Malaria, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Hardin County Hospice, and other ministries. Our church continues to be faithful in its connectional giving to the larger body of the United Methodist Church.

In 2016, we plan to offer another mission trip. We will continue to be 100% faithful in our connectional giving. We ambitiously aim to raise more than \$10,000 in second-mile missional giving (above and beyond normal church giving).

MISSION BUDGET = \$67,289 (21% of TOTAL)

(This total includes portions of pastor and staff salaries and compensation, connectional giving, office supplies, and building expenses.)

- D. To provide radical hospitality and care for all persons, within our church and without (CARE).

We believe that part of the mission of the church is to provide love and mercy to all, within our church and without. This includes, but is not limited to, visiting members in care facilities, praying with those in the hospital, officiating funerals and weddings, offering counseling services, and engaging in the lives of children and youth. While our pastor and staff often engage in these activities, other groups also engage in care, and we encourage everyone in the church to be engaged in care and mercy ministries.

CARE BUDGET = \$22, 722 (7% of TOTAL)

(This total includes portions of pastor and staff salaries and compensation.)

E. To be faithful stewards of the blessings and resources God has blessed us with (ADMINISTRATION).

Part of good stewardship is responsible handling of the resources we have been given. This includes, but is not limited to, legal requirements, upkeep of our facilities, denominational requirements and reporting, church communication, budgeting, and human resource work. We continue to function in a way that is above reproach, so that our stewardship of our resources does not give cause to question our faith.

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET = \$41,588 (13% of TOTAL)

(This total includes portions of pastor and staff salaries and compensation, utilities, cleaning supplies, building expenses, office supplies, and compensation for our annual conference delegates.)

Our total budget required to complete our planned ministries and to continue to be a multi-generational community of faith, growing disciples, and transforming our world is:

TOTAL BUDGET = \$317,261

- A line-item budget is available upon request in the church office.

Other Items (Outside of General Budget)

The following three items exist outside of our general fund. They are funded by alternative sources, and therefore are not part of our general budget. However, they are vitally important to our mission. Because they are funded from alternative sources, the actual funds available may vary greatly year-to-year. Therefore, the budgets included here are approximations.

A. First United Methodist Christian Preschool

Our preschool has been in existence for over 50 years. We continue to provide excellent education, rooted in our faith, for three- and four-year olds. There are currently 24 students enrolled in Preschool. In the past year, the preschool hired a new teacher and invested in new technology for the classroom, including a SMART Board and new laptop. The preschool offers classes four days per week.

The preschool is funded from tuition, fundraisers, and generous gifts from donors.

APPROXIMATE PRESCHOOL BUDGET = \$30,000

B. Trustees of the Kenton First United Methodist Church

The Trustees care for the buildings and property of the church and parsonage. In the past year, the Trustees repaired the water lines in the front of the building, undertook significant landscaping changes, made several repairs to the parsonage (in anticipation of the pastoral transition), replaced the sewer line in the church basement, renovated the church kitchen, and installed the handicap-accessible door at the parking lot entrance. The Trustees also oversee the scholarship funds of the church.

The trustees are funded by income from church-owned investments and property, as well as memorial and legacy gifts given by the church.

APPROXIMATE TRUSTEES BUDGET= \$27,000

C. OneFund

OneFund is the primary fundraising vehicle of our youth ministry. OneFund finances youth trips such as WinterJam and Lakeside for Youth. Without OneFund, many of our trips would be too expensive for youth to attend. OneFund offsets the cost of admissions, provides transportation, food, housing, and other needs. OneFund is funded as needed, and helps offset the costs, so that the price to our youth is affordable for most families.

OneFund is funded by generous gifts from the church family, including the Lois Taylor memorial gifts.

APPROXIMATE ONEFUND BUDGET= \$12,000

First United Methodist Church

234 N. Main St

Kenton, Ohio 43326

Kentonfirst.org

kentonfirst@gmail.com

Reverend Jonathan Hanover

Mission Statement:

To Invite, Disciple, Send and

Serve in the name of Jesus

Christ

Attendance and Offering

	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Offering</u>
	9:00	11:00	
January 3	74	97	\$9411.49
January 10	64	73	\$4447.00
January 17	83	110	\$3736.00
January 24	73	134	\$3876.00
January 31	85	104	\$4912.39

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 AA	2 5:00 NOC mtg 6:30 Bells 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Worship mtg	3 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids Club Middle school Bible study	4 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	5 Confirmation 3:15-4:45	6 11 AA
7 9 Worship 10 Sunday school 11 Worship 7:00 HS youth,	8 7:00 Minerva Club 7:30 AA	9 6:30 Bells 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:30 Trustees	10 Ash Wednes- day Service 7AM 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids Club Bible study	11 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	12 Confirmation 3:15-4:45	13 6:30 am-12:00 OSU Interviews 11 AA
14 9 Worship 10 Sunday school 11 Worship 5:30 HS youth	15 6:30 Children's Ministry mtg 7:30 AA	16 5:30 SPR 6:30 Youth mtg 6:30 Bells 6:30 Boy Scouts	17 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids Club Bible study Middle school	18 6:00 Preschool mtg 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	19	20 11 AA
21 9 Worship 10 Sunday school 11 Worship 5:30 HS youth	22 6:30 Lead Team mtg 7:30 AA	23 6:30 Bells 6:30 Boy Scouts	24 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Kids Club Bible study 7:30 Elizabeth Circle, lounge	25 7:30 AA 7:30 Choir	26	27 11 AA 5:30 Young Adults Life Group, lounge
28 9 Worship 10 Sunday school 11 Worship 12 One Fund 5:30 HS youth	29 7:30 AA					

Lead Team –Ministry Teams 2016

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Hanover
Secretary: Lisha Rawlins
Custodian: Dwane Stalder
Children's Ministry: Christa Quail
Choir Director and Organist: Scott Barrett
Bell Choir Director– Jan Aller
Treasurer: Paul Herman
Preschool Director: Lisa Thomsen
Assistant Preschool Teacher: Lacey Watkins

Ministry Teams:

Lay Leader: Brett Purcell
Lay Delegate: Lyn Davis

Trustees:

Gladys Hamilton, chair
Doug Heilman
Tim Newland
Garnet Stalder
Scott Barrett
Marsha Watkins
John Steinman
Josh Reffner

Staff Parish:

John Mentzer, chair
Steve Oliver
Jim Steele
Susan Headings
Martha Furbush
Lyn Davis

Finance:

Laurie Steinman, chair
Julia Turner
Paul Herman
Chuck Rawlins

Missions:

Mark Watkins, chair
Sharon Davis
Brenda Jennings
David and DeDe Snyder
Cheryl Truman

Children's Ministry:

Jane Landsberg
Dwight Brown
Sandy Herman
Jeryl Kissling
Shirley Stauffer
Mindy Osborn

11:00 Worship:

Scott Barrett, chair
Winnie Streets
Roberta Flinn
BJ and Martha Furbush
Dick Aller

9:00 Worship:

Dwight Brown, chair
Barb Winzenried
Lyn Davis
Edison Klingler
Lisa Oberlitner
Tom Taylor

Youth Ministry:

Trent Watkins, chair
Bud Winzenried
Amy Kohl
Morgan Kohl
Mariam Dulin

Ad Hoc:

Gladys Hamilton, UMW
Jim Steele