

In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer ...

Week of 21 February - 27 February 2010
This week we pray for France, Germany

INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

- The fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany and its families.
- The witness of such ecumenical centres as the Taizé community, which has revitalized worship, particularly among young people.
- Those working for tolerance and support for immigrants and refugees, so that hatred and violence based on ethnicity are eliminated.
- Chocolate mousse, croissants, French fries, sauerkraut and sausage.
- Magnificent church art and architecture, which tell the gospel story and praise God.

Pray for:

- The struggle to unite east and west in Germany, that the gap between the rich and poor may decrease and that all citizens be treated with justice.
- Revitalization of the church amid increasing secularism and atheism.
- The environment, particularly in the eastern half of Germany, with its ageing factories and lack of pollution controls.
- Refugees and immigrants who often face discrimination and racism.
- The unemployed and those who face economic uncertainty in the midst of globalization.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

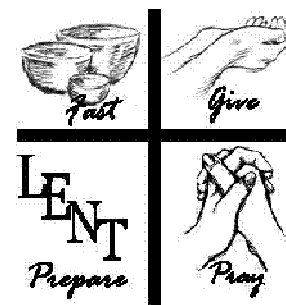
The people of The United Methodist Church®

February 21, 2010
1st Sunday of Lent

Lenten Worship Order

Focus Scripture: Luke 4: 1 - 13

- **Gathering & Centering**
Welcome and Invitation
Song
Reading and meditating on Scripture
Song
- **Reflecting on the Word**
Sermon
- **Responding to the Word**
Prayers of the people
Offering
Announcements
- **Sending Out**
Song
Benediction



Thank you to our worship leaders today: Aeri, Hoang-Anh, Jane, and Jenny.

Our worship leaders next week will be Alvin, Aeri, Hoang-Anh, and Wendy

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father/Mother/God who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.*

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Home By Another Way

These were the words shared at this past week's Ash Wednesday service as we began the Lenten season together:

Welcome to a season of self-examination. This is a time to ponder the depth of God's love and the lengths some have gone to bring awareness of that transforming love into the world. It is also a time to ponder what God wills for us and the world; which the Bible names as justice and Jesus called "life abundant." Finally, it is a time to ponder what God's love and God's will for us call us to do. How are we to live? How are we to treat the earth, ourselves, and our neighbors?Through hardship, affliction, and calamity, we trust in the transformative love of God to steady us. Prepare yourselves for a journey of the heart. Be open to the grace that enables your growth. With gratitude and wonder, receive the Divine Love in your minds and hearts and souls.

To sum it up, Lent calls us to return Home, to our God who is our beginning and our end. This will not be an easy journey, I suspect. We and the world beyond have strewn the path with all sorts of distractions and obstacles. It will take some hard work to name those things which block us from Life, Light, and Love. It will take some intentional work to remove them by seeking pardon, doing penance and embracing restoration. And so we must figure out "another way" than our every day strategies to make it Home, to return to God. During the season of Lent, we will meditate each week on what it means to journey "Home by another way."

To get you started, you might consider these prompts shared on Ash Wednesday:

During the season of Lent...

I will commit to giving up the following, as an act of repentance and turning back to God:

I will commit to the following practice, as a way to strengthen and enliven my spiritual life:

I will give special attention to the following community need as an act of solidarity and generosity:

I encourage you to give these prompts some thought, to jot your commitments down somewhere, and then, to share them with your close friends, small group and/or family. Invite others into your commitment and solicit their support in making it to the end. We cannot do it by ourselves...nor should we.

I look forward to traveling together – to supporting one another with the nourishment of care, accountability and hope, to accompanying one another as we seek out the promise of new creation and of homecoming.

Lenten blessings,
Pastor Emily



S.O.U.P. Sundays begin this Week

For the next 6 Sundays, our worship order will be pared down to bring focus to our prayer time. We will be singing simple and repetitive songs that invite a spirit of contemplation. There will be shorter messages and an expanded time for prayer.

Our hospitality time will center around tea and coffee only.

We will share in a soup lunch together each Sunday while listening to readings about prayer.

Small groups will be formed to get to know one another and to pray together following the partaking of soup. **Please join us!**

Upcoming News and Notes ~

- St. Paul UMC in Fremont is sponsoring a training for **Healing Prayer Ministry**. There will be 3 sessions of 2 hours each from 9-11AM on **February 27, March 13 and 27**. Sessions will include teaching and practice. Please see Jane for more details.
- **Knitting group** will meet Sunday, **February 28th** after Soup Sunday
- **Pot Luck for Rev James Chuck**, Sunday, **February 28th** 4pm at the Woon's home. Please see article and connect with Peggy, Charlie or Steve if you plan to come!
- **Coming in April:** Benefit dinner for the **Kumi Boarding School**. Please see Becky if you'd like to help with the plans.

An Appreciation Potluck for Reverend Dr. James Chuck

The pot luck honoring Rev. Chuck will be held at the home of Peggy & Larry Woon on Sunday, February 28th, beginning at 4pm.

Please RSVP and let Peggy know what dish you'd like to bring. Look for a card to sign in the social hall this Sunday, and come on the 28th to wish him well!

