

Memorial United Methodist Church

February 18, 2018
First Sunday in Lent

Welcoming and Announcements

Centering our hearts

Your pathways are loving and faithful, Holy One. Lead us in your truths, O God. Teach us your ways and your paths. Instruct us through your word, as we humbly receive your lessons.

Call to Worship - Responsive

Lead us in the way of truth, O God.

Show us your holy pathways.

Your way is steadfast love and faithfulness.

Teach us to follow where you lead.

We trust in your way, O Lord

To you, we lift up our souls.

Prayer- Unison

God of rainbow promises, we seek to know your ways of love and truth. As we walk with Jesus in this season of Lent through our wilderness journeys, your Holy Spirit is with us, as it was with Jesus at the Jordan River. Help us clearly perceive the pathway that proclaims your kindness and your kin-dom. Help us undertake the journey within to the source of our best selves, that we may remember anew that you are with us, in us, and near us, on every step of life's journey. God Emmanuel. Amen.

♦ Hymn "Take Time to Be Holy" 395

Sharing of Joys / Concerns / Testimonies

Prayer for our concerns

Reading of the Psalm

♦ Hymn "I Stand Amazed in the Presence" 371

♦ Old Testament Reading **Genesis 9:8-17**
Please stand for the reading of the Scripture

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

♦ Doxology 95
WE STAND TO PRAISE GOD

Children's Moment

Special Music

Prayer of Confession -

We long to be known by you at our best, Holy One. We long to hear the words, "You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased." Yet we remember times when our words or our actions have hurt your heart or the hearts of others. For these acts, forgive us, we pray. We remember, too, when we have caused harm by failing to act or by failing to speak. For these inactions, forgive us, we pray. Amen

Scripture

The Message

♦ Hymn "Precious Name" 536

♦ Benediction

Postlude

♦ Please stand as you are able *The altar is always open.*
You may come to the altar to pray anytime.

Welcome to

Memorial United Methodist Church
509 Market St., Spencer, WV 25276
304-927-4427 Church Office 304-519-2016 Parsonage
www.spencermemorialumc.org

Joys:

Living testimonies to the saving grace of God

Concerns:

Rosalee Caldwell

Mary Kendall

Shelia Nichols

Leonard May

Ramona May

Jennifer Gandee-Barker

Those affected by the recent natural disasters

Families suffering the loss of loved ones

Robert Starcher

Clara Wyatt

Jenny Lewis

Unspoken

This Week's Activities and Announcements

Monday - President's Day

Lions Club 6:00PM

Thurs. - Special Backpack Day at Walton Elementary/Middle School

We'll be on site with Mountaineer Food Bank for a produce give away. Begins at 8:30 AM.

Friday - 9:00 - Pack BackPacks and deliver for Spencer Elementary and Middle Schools

Church Mice

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God's Top Ten

1. Put God First
 2. Worship Him Only
 3. No Bad Words
 4. Work 6 Rest 1
 5. Obey Your Parents
 6. Harm No One
 7. Don't Cheat
 8. If Its Not Yours, Don't Take It
 9. Tell the Truth
 10. Don't Be Jealous of Other People's Stuff
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- Three hearts (green, blue, and pink) are arranged vertically on the right side of the list. A large green cross is positioned to the right of the bottom half of the list.

**MEMORIAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00 Worship	5 Lions Club	6	7	8 9:00 Pack Backpacks	9	10
11 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00 Worship	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 2:00PM Unload MFB Delivery	15 9:00 Pack Backpacks	16	17
18 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00 Worship	19 Lions Club	20	21	22 8:30 Walton Elem.	23 9:00 Pack Backpacks	24
25 9:30AM Sunday School 11:00 Worship	26	27	28			

CHECK CALENDAR EACH WEEK FOR UPDATED EVENTS.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches. It's a day of penitence to clean the soul before the Lent fast. Roman Catholic, Anglican, and some other churches hold special services at which worshippers are marked with ashes as a symbol of death and sorrow for sin.

Ash Wednesday services

The service draws on the ancient Biblical traditions of covering one's head with ashes, wearing sackcloth, and fasting.

The mark of ashes

In Ash Wednesday services churchgoers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality.

The use of ashes, made by burning palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday, is very symbolic.

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Why 40 days?

40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.

- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The color purple

Purple is the symbolic color used in some churches throughout Lent, for drapes and altar frontals. Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the color associated with royalty, and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty.

East and West

Both the eastern and western churches observe Lent but they count the 40 days differently.

The western church excludes Sundays (which is celebrated as the day of Christ's resurrection) whereas the eastern church includes them.

The churches also start Lent on different days.

Western churches start Lent on the 7th Wednesday before Easter Day (called Ash Wednesday).

Eastern churches start Lent on the Monday of the 7th week before Easter and end it on the Friday 9 days before Easter. Eastern churches call this period the 'Great Lent'.

The last week of Lent is called [Holy Week](#).