



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

### *The Kedron Connection*

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*Issue 2*

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### *From Our Pastor*

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 "Forty years"  
Matthew 4:1-2 "Forty days"

I don't know about you but Publishers Clearing House has not yet knocked on my door. But when they do.....my sense of time will all fly away! Yes? With their "gift" to me I won't need to think or worry about the days ahead of me. I don't have to pay attention to days! Sound and secure from all alarms (and schedules I don't want to have to do).

A nice fantasy but that's about where it will end. Back to my calendar and a "to do list." Back to some kind of "9-5" thinking about weeks, months, years.

And sure enough, as a Christian I AM guided by days, dates, time commitments, seasons, and hours of worship, prayer, and service. We do follow seasons eg Christmas, Advent, Easter, and now Lent. They each have their emphasis and focus. We are now in Lent, forty days of preparation for Easter celebration. Many will mark those Forty Days with intentions to pray, fast, give, and serve in ways perhaps not practiced as much as in other Christian seasons. And we have started with an Ash Wednesday given to repentance and being reminded we "are dust and to dust we shall return." We have days and years but still we are limited to an amount of earthly time. Even if we win the Publishers Clearing House prize....here today, gone tomorrow! We are instead asked to consider eternal matters as people of faith.

So, like Moses and like Jesus we are given a period of time to focus and prepare. What will we do with these coming Forty Days? Get out your calendar and highlight those forty days. Realize those days are a gift to consider once again the Lord with all your heart and mind and strength! Each day can include an intention toward God and neighbor. Someone is indeed knocking on the door of your life with gifts! Open it! Someone has indeed given you days and years. Be thankful!

Pastor Barry

### **March 1 – Morning Worship**

A team of students from the Wesley Foundation at MTSU will be at Kedron. They will lead parts of our Worship Service. Wesley is the United Methodist organization ministering to college students.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, March 7. Breakfast will be begin at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

### **Fellowship Lunch**

We will have a time of fellowship and a pizza lunch following the worship service on March 8. The pizza will be provided. Hopefully you can join us.

### **No March Fellowship Supper**

There will be no First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper in March. There will be an announcement when the suppers resume.

### **Bible Study**

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at his home on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. The address is 1215 Ledbury Dr., Smyrna.

### **Youth**

Our Youth Faith Formation study group is active. We are grateful for our children and youth and those who have worked with and supported them and their adult leaders.

On February 22, Kedron treated the youth and children to bowling, games and pizza at the Smyrna Stars and Strikes.

### **Bucket Offerings**

In March, the bucket collections at Sunday morning Worship Service will be used at Kedron for Easter activities for our youth and children.

### **Lenten Study**

A Lenten Study begins March 1 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC. The study will rotate with other congregations for five Sunday nights. See our pastor for study guide and ride sharing.

### **Lay Servant School**

March 7, 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship UMC  
2511 State Highway 99, Murfreesboro  
Cost \$45.00 includes materials, leadership, lunch and snacks  
Several different classes are available.  
Registration must be received by March 2.  
Contact Ruthann Patient at 615-948-8162.

### **Laity**

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet on March 23. The meeting will be at Smyrna First UMC, 301 Sam Davis Road .  
The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

### **Attention, Golfers and Others**

Golf Tournament April 4 Old Fort Golf Course  
The proceeds will benefit the Wesley Foundation at MTSU. There are opportunities to help if not golfing. Information is available in the narthex and from Pastor Barry.

### **Food Bank**

You may bring food donations for the local food bank on the first and second Sundays of the month. Place the donations on the pew in the narthex. The food will be delivered to the food bank. The suggested item for March is peanut butter. All non-perishable foods are accepted and appreciated. The need is great.

### **Who Said This?**

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.”

NRSV

(hint – book of Isaiah)

## Happy Birthday to:

Paul Lovell	March 2
Mary Ellen Vance	March 4
Tanner Stacey	March 5
Frank Pagello	March 25
Rev. Barry Culbertson	March 27
Kennedy Wagner	March 30
Carol Dorn	March 31
Chaplain Rob Dunbar	March 31

## Happy Anniversary to:

Doug & Dee Rouse	March 14
Gaylor & Carol Dorn	March 19

**2 Samuel 22:47** spoken by David was the quotation in the February newsletter.

## For Lent, Listen

How hard it is to listen, really listen. It's a habit, a ministry, a way of life. But it needs cultivating.

Listen to your **children**. Really listen without interrupting with a lecture.

Listen to your **spouse**. Turn off the television and find out what's really on each other's mind.

Listen to an **elderly person**. Let him talk about the past.

Listen to your **pastor**. Give your whole attention to the sermon.

Listen to **music**. Listen to the words of the hymns and anthems.

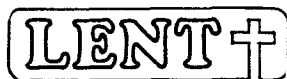
Listen to the sounds of **nature**. The birds have a language.

Listening means giving up the temptation to talk about yourself, to say something critical about somebody else.

Listening is a humbling, learning experience.

**Listen for God.**

- Betty Rowland



## March Calendar

Sunday, March 1:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 3:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Friday, March 6:

World Day of Prayer

Saturday, March 7:

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sunday, March 8:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:45 a.m. Pizza Lunch  
after Worship Service

Tuesday, March 10:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, March 15:

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 17:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, March 22:

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. April newsletter  
information due. Email:  
lf\_fraley@prodigy.net  
or phone: 615-459-2618.

Monday, March 23:

6:30 p.m. Rutherford Laity at  
Smyrna First UMC

Tuesday, March 24:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, March 29:

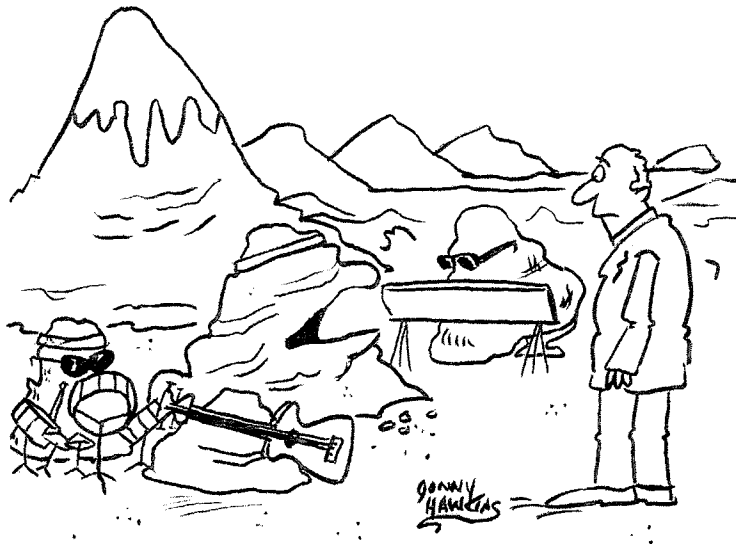
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

8:45 a.m. Sunday School;

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 31:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study



**“If the people won’t cry out with praise to God, we will. We’re a Christian rock band.”**

*“I tell you...if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40).*

## Word Fun

Circle the word in each square that does not belong.

chair  
table  
heart

2

friend  
run  
walk

6

flower  
love  
tree

1

speech  
pen  
pencil

4

car  
gracious  
truck

3

valley  
mountain  
king

5

In the blanks below, write the word you have circled from each box, matching the numbers.

Those who \_\_\_\_\_ a pure \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_

1

2

3

in \_\_\_\_\_ will have the \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_

4

5

6