



March 2024

# Without Borders

### WHY "DO" LENT? HOW DO I START?

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" — to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. You might try one of these practices for Lent:

**FASTING:** Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do?

**SERVICE:** Some Christians take something on *for* Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, coworker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God.

**PRAYER:** Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

Excerpt from <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/lent-101>

*Encounter God  
Share God's love with our  
church family and invite  
friends and neighbors.*

*Grow in Faith  
You must be intentional  
in growing your faith  
and in helping others  
do the same.*

*Serve in Christ's Love  
Jesus gave us the example  
of helping others and  
charged us with sharing  
the faith.*

JOIN US!	9:00 a.m.	All Ages Sunday School Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship Time
SUNDAYS	10:15 a.m.	Worship

*Our Mission*

*To make new disciples of Jesus Christ*

*Our Vision*

*To invite and reach out to our neighbors to encounter God, grow in faith and serve in Christ's love*

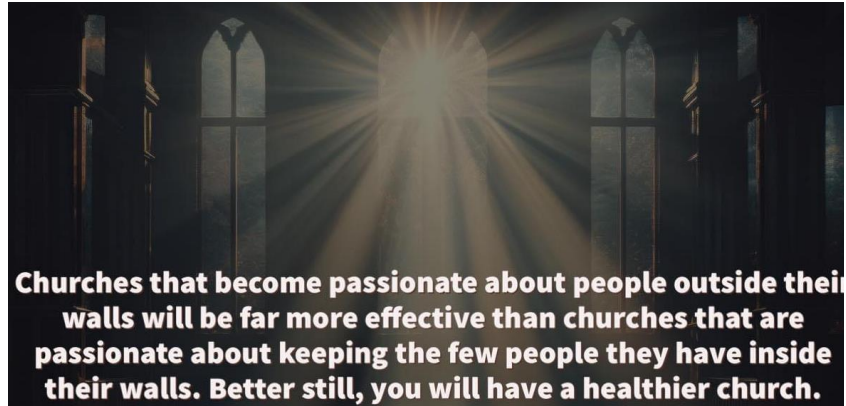



### Birthdays



#### March

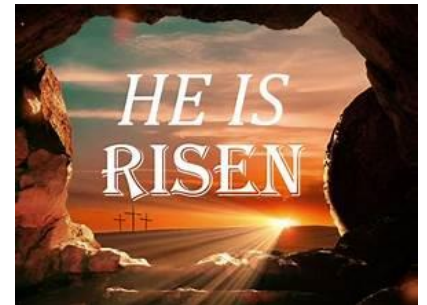
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ernie Houdeshell
- 19<sup>th</sup> Hunter Trivette
- 19<sup>th</sup> Alice Gregory



- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>   | 6:30 p.m. Hospitality Team Meeting  |
| Wednesday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> | 6:34 p.m. Outreach Meeting  |
| Thursday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study off campus  |
| Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Daylight Savings Time – DON'T BE LATE!<br>9:45 a.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Snack<br>11:30 p.m. Nacho Birthday Fellowship Meal |
| Tuesday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>  | 6:30 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting   |
| Thursday, March 14 <sup>th</sup> | 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study off campus  |
| Sunday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>   | St. Patrick's Day                          |
| Monday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>   | 1:00 p.m. Pack food for the State Line Inn  |
| Thursday March 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study off campus  |
| Saturday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Community Egg Hunt  |
| Sunday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 11:30 a.m. Deliver Food to the State Line Inn   |
| Thursday, March 28 <sup>th</sup> | Church office closed (Mary out-of-office 3/26-4/3)<br>6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study off campus                                  |
| Sunday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>   | 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service – State Line Ruritan Park<br>10:15 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary               |



March  
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## Serving in Worship

	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
March 3	Ellen Avey	Gary Rhoe	Tabitha H. / Bonnie C.
March 10	Terry Berkley	Tim Berkley	Tabitha H. / Bonnie C.
March 17	Ellen Kennedy	Rodger Kennedy	Tabitha H. / Terry B.
March 24	Matt Ellis	Bonnie Courtney	Tabitha H. / Gwenelle T.
March 31	Matt Ellis	Gary Rhoe	Tabitha H. / Gwenelle T.



### Outreach Pantry Needs for March

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Toaster Pastries,  
Canned Pasta, Ramen Noodle Packs



## Get Involved!

1:00 p.m. – Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Pack bags of food for the Inn.  
11:45 a.m. – Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Food distribution at the State Line Inn.

# Fellowship



### IF MARCH 10 IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY . . .

a gathering will be held in your honor!

#### **IT'S NACHO BIRTHDAY**

fellowship lunch will be held right after worship.  
Everyone's invited.

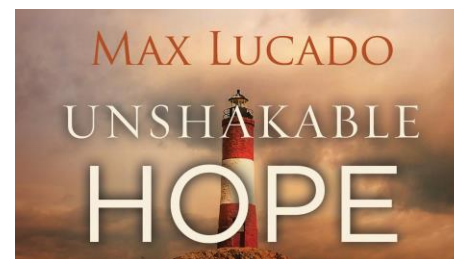
The hospitality team will provide beef and chicken nacho meat, beverages, dessert, and anything needed but not listed on the sign-up board. Very simple menu - nachos, dessert, drinks. That means time for all to enjoy each other's company and just have some fun. Please add your name, number attending, and what you'll bring on the sign-up board located in the coffee area. Hasta la vista, specifically on March 10!

### Thursday Evening Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – John Allison Public House

It's never the wrong time to participate in Bible Study! This year, we are starting off with the study of **Unshakable Hope**. Life is tough, but we have been given the tools to cope, mourn and even thrive through difficulty. Come and explore the teachings of Jesus in a new light.

**GROWING MINISTRY: 3 attending to 12 attending in 6 months!!**



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

and by village we mean the whole church family. Five volunteers are part of the Hospitality Team (Ellen A., Terry B., Ellen K., Sherry R., and Gwenelle T.) and take part in monthly meetings in an effort to offer a comfortable, inviting, and friendly atmosphere to members and guests alike. We cannot do everything, so we are mentioning a few things EVERYONE can do to keep things in order, attractive, and ready for use.

- ✓ If you use it, please put it where you found it. Especially in the kitchen, clean and return all utensils, china, pots and pans after using them. If dish towels/cloths are used, please take them home to launder and return promptly.
- ✓ Discard all trash in trash cans throughout the building. Despite much effort to recycle accepted items, we are now only recycling cardboard in the large can located in the kitchen.
- ✓ To help avoid a wet clean-up task for our cleaning folks, please DISCARD LIQUID in the closest sink rather than in the trash can. This especially applies to the coffee area/upstairs trash cans.
- ✓ If you enjoy the 2nd Sunday Snack time, consider providing a snack one month. Contact Ellen A. for info and to sign up for the month you want. Hospitality team members will provide the fruit/non-gluten snack.

If everyone follows these guidelines, it will make a big difference in the cleanliness and pleasant atmosphere of our church building.



### *February Leadership Team Notes*

The Leadership Team met on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The following are highlights from the meeting.

- Adult Fellowship met in February and visited 4 homebound members of the congregation.
- The Hospitality Team is holding a church fellowship lunch on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheet is available in the sanctuary.
- Matt Ellis & Ellen Kennedy volunteered to complete the annual church audit. We thank them for volunteering for this important and time-consuming action.
- The team discussed what should be done with the old pew Bibles. They will be offered to Joy El or Mission Central to help reach those in need of Bibles.

## Tithes & Offerings

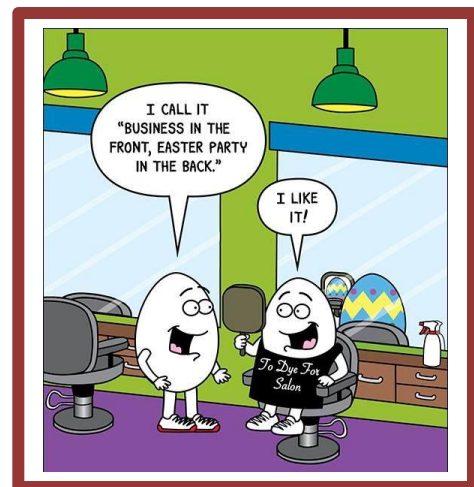
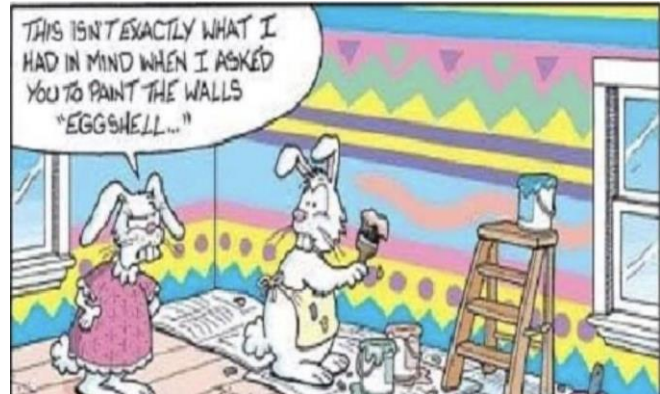
Week of February 4 <sup>th</sup> :	28 attend	\$1526.00
Week of February 11 <sup>th</sup> :	32 attend	\$967.00
Week of February 18 <sup>th</sup> :	43 attend	\$1131.00
Week of February 25 <sup>th</sup> :	33 attend	\$1180.00



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~ OR ~  
Mail slot at back door  
~ OR ~  
ONLINE GIVING on the website

Pastor Don is available by email, cell phone, or Monday mornings in the office. Please know that you can reach him and can discuss ideas or concerns with him directly.

[Pastor@statelineumc.com](mailto:Pastor@statelineumc.com) / 240-675-2999 Cell



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