



Ash Wednesday Supper



As we begin the season of Lent, you are invited to come to the HUB for an Ash Wednesday soup/salad supper on February 26th at 6:00 pm. The menu will include chicken noodle, cream of potato, and chicken fajita soup; garden salad; dessert; drinks. At 7:00 p.m. we will begin a service that will be more meditative where we will read and contemplate a passage from God's Word as well as other readings from followers of Jesus and spend time in prayer. Please let us know if you are coming to the supper by **Sunday, February 23rd**; calling the church office (330-576-6608) or indicating on the Sunday Fellowship Card. Please come for an evening of food and fellowship, quiet reflection, listen to and for God and the distribution of ashes.

Congregational Meeting

Please plan on staying after worship on Sunday, February 24th for a lunch that will include: chili, salad, cornbread, crackers and dessert. A free-will offering will be taken. Let us know if you are coming by calling the church office (330-576-6608) or indicating on the Sunday Fellowship Card by **Tuesday, February 19th**.



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Special points of interest:

- February 24 - Congregational Meeting - directly after the worship
- February 26 - Ash Wednesday Meal & Meditation Service

Pastor's Pen

Dear Members and Friends of The Vine Fellowship Church:

I heard a lot of comments after our service on Sunday, January 12th when we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord and, during the service, people had the opportunity to come forward to the large bowl, dip their hands in the water, and remember their baptism. Standing behind the bowl of water and watching how people interacted with the water- some cupped their hands and brought the water up in front of them; some took one hand and splashed in it. And then to watch the faces of people and what they did next was very moving- one person put the water that was in their hand on the back of their neck; one person put the water all over their head; one person took the water and wiped their face with it; some put water on their temple.

As I thought about that part in the service where we celebrated our own baptisms, it reminded me that for some, self-included, I was baptized as an infant and so I am not able to remember my baptism. I have my baptismal certificate, and maybe there are some pictures around in an old family scrapbook, but for me and many others, we cannot remember our baptism except, except when we do what we did on that Sunday in January. It was a way for those who desired, to actually experience the water; splash in it; raise the water up in their hands; place the water on their face or forehead or their entire head. It was a way to participate in the service; a way to become a part of the service. Of course, whenever anyone is baptized at our church, it is an opportunity for us to remember that we were once baptized and we too, can celebrate this sacrament with the person or child being baptized.

On Wednesday, February 26th you will have another opportunity to participate in the service and we will observe Ash Wednesday. We will gather at 6 p.m. for a soup/salad supper and at 7 p.m. move into, what I like to call, a "Meditative Service".

Ash Wednesday beings the season of Lent. The say is so named because of the ancient practice of wearing ashes as a sign of humility and repentance, a practice observed by Christians to help us remember that we are totally dependent on God. Interesting, Lent may have originated as a period of preparation for those who were candidates for baptism, which would then take place on Easter. Baptism was a way for believers to act out their own participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus. So, the time prior to Easter was a time set aside for discipline and instruction, and was modeled after the Lord's forty days in the wilderness.

I hope you will join me on Ash Wednesday for a meal and service and for those who desire, you will be able to participate in this service by coming forward and receiving your ashes that will be place on the forehead. May the Lord bless you as you and I prepare for the season of Lent and make our journey to the cross and that glorious Resurrection Day.

Yours in Christ and on the Journey together,

Mark

Session Highlights

January Session Highlights

- The Inquirers Class (Christian Growth & Development) will be held a Sunday, February 2nd after church.
- Beginning the week of February 9th, small group Bible Study groups will meet (Christian Growth & Development) on Wednesday afternoon at Evelyn Bell's, Wednesday evening at the Millers, and Thursday evening at the HUB.
- Representatives from two mission causes we financially supported last year, 1040 Global Ministries (Galloway, OH) and Truly Reaching You (Akron) will be invited to come and share at a Sunday morning service in 2020. Rev. Elmarie Parker, a missionary to Lebanon and who we have supported for several years will also be invited, depending when she and her husband, Scott, are back in the states on furlough (Community Ministry/Mission).
- Stew Buchanan, Treasurer, reported that as of January 13th, the pledges for 2020 is \$126,984.
- The Vital Congregations Initiative Task Force is putting on an Elders/Deacons Retreat on Saturday, February 22nd at the church.

Per Capita

Offering Envelopes

Each year every Presbyterian Church is asked to pay per capita for every active church member. Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. The breakdown for this year's Per Capita is:

\$8.95 General Assembly, PCUSA
\$3.25 Synod of the Covenant (MI & OH)
\$19.80 Eastminster Presbytery

Please prayerfully consider contributing \$32 over-and-above your weekly/monthly/yearly giving as this is a line-item of the church budget. Thanks.

For those who use or would like to use offering envelopes in 2020 please see Dick Hillebrand (Stewardship & Finance Chair) or Stew Buchanan, Treasurer. You can also call the church office (330-576-6608) or indicate on the Sunday Fellowship Card that you

Music News

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, February 2nd

Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: John 13:31-35

Sermon: "The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers, Part 1"
(A sermon series: The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers)

Sunday, February 9th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: John 9:1-41

Sermon: "The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers, Part 2"
(A sermon series: The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers)

Sunday, February 16th

Note: Fellowship Meal followed by Annual Congregational Meeting- See Special Announcement

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-33

Sermon: "Am I a Sheep?"

(A sermon series: The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers)

Sunday, February 23rd

Transfiguration of the Lord

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Wednesday, February 26th

Ash Wednesday Meal/Service

6-6:45 p.m. Soup/Salad Supper

7 p.m. Meditative Service

Sunday School News

Beginning February 9 at 9:30 am, the adult class will begin a series by N.T. Wright called "Simply Christian" based on his highly readable book by the same title. Wright is a well-known New Testament scholar who has written around 30 books. In these ten videos he presents four themes:

- Justice
- Spirituality
- Relationships
- Beauty

The book, "Simply Christian" is not essential but can be read along with the video series.

Bible Studies and Fellowship Opportunities

Tuesday Club

Please see Rita Vincent for the place and date of meeting.

WNGS

“WNGS” “They that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength... They shall mount up with wings of eagles.” Isaiah 40:31

Women of the church are invited to participate in the Wednesday afternoon Bible study. Contact Pat Franklin for more information.

Afternoon Circle

Afternoon Circle will meet at the Rockynol home of Lois Ingram on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study

Every Thursday morning a group of men of all ages meet together at Panera Bread in Montrose at 6:30 am for Bible study and fellowship. If you would like to join this study, please contact Tony Miller @ 330-825-9254.

Women's Bible Review

“You are invited to dinner with Jesus Christ.” Join the *Women's Bible Review Fellowship* to hear how a successful attorney with an imperfect life answers this invitation in *The Perfect Stranger* at The HUB Community Center, 3676 Community Lane, Copley OH 44321, in the Café on February 20, 2020, from 1 to 3:30pm. RSVP by 2.19.20 via text or call Suzanne @ 330.322.7966.

Prayer Concerns

Pray for our military: Paul Jones - Air Force

Please continue to pray for: Pete Jones, Larry Vincent, Hope Everhart, Margaret Jones, Frank Weaver, Steve Rowland, Nancy Smith, Cherie Buchanan, Jon Labbe, Owen Hoffman, David Cook, Donna Porter, JoAnn Marcinkoski, Mia Wilson, Members in Senior Living Facilities, Traveling mercies for those traveling over the holidays, Unrest and killing in our country and around the world, Racial reconciliation, Refugee crisis around the world, Victims of the recent forest fires, Syrian Refugee Educational Initiative, The Middle East, Local Missions: Love Akron, Missionaries Mark Hare - and wife Jenny Bent (Costa Rica) and Elmarie & Scott Parker (Lebanon/Syria), The Persecuted Church.

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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[www.thevinefellowshipcopley.org]

As a caring Christian community, The Vine Fellowship Church welcomes all people as we proclaim, witness and teach the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and service.

Prayer Meeting



Our next prayer gathering will be at on **February 10th at 5:30 pm** in the Café.

*The Vine Fellowship Church
Traditional Worship begins at
11:00 am.*

Mark T. Ruppert - Pastor
Denise Negowski - HUB Marketing & Events Manager
Kay Belser - Pianist and Director of Music Ministry

Plain English

**God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead.
So why should you?**