



The Messenger

March 2023

801-393-5662

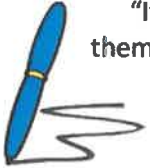
www.fumcogdenut.org

ogdenfumc@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/ogdenfumc

Worship by Phone: 801-436-3829

PASTOR'S PEN



"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Since Ash Wednesday on February 22, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent consists of forty days plus six Sundays prior to Easter. Lent is a time when Christians have traditionally intensified self-reflection and the searching of their souls. Christians have used the season of Lent to repent of sin and attempt to focus more carefully on living according to the teaching of Christ. To help concentrate the mind and heart, Christians have traditionally practiced fasting and self-denial as a way of connecting with the suffering of Christ.

Of course, giving up something for Lent isn't the only way to meditate on Christ. Christians also do well to increase daily devotional time of Bible reading and prayer. We might also focus on the cross of Christ by practicing acts of kindness and charity to those who are in need. As we contemplate Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross, we might feel called to engage more deeply with our own capitol and power structure. How might we speak out about injustices and harm done to the weak? Are we willing to take the risks like Jesus did?

Whatever positive actions we take will likely require us to do less of something else. Since we are limited in our time and resources, something usually has to give. Whenever we say "Yes" to something new, we have to say "No" to something we have been doing or to some comfort we have been enjoying. Whether that's a radical and repentant turning from one thing to another, or we only shift our attention a little bit, Lent is a time for this spiritual redirection.

Sometimes people dismiss the opportunity of Lent by saying that, if a change needs to be made, then it shouldn't be done for just six weeks. They then use that as an excuse not to make any change at all. I think it's better to embrace Lent as a time of experimentation. Use it as a temporary test. See if you can embrace a change for 46 days. If it's too hard, then know that Easter will come, and Christ's forgiving love will offer you mercy. God will let you out of the tomb! But if it turns out to be a positive change for you, then you will

have proven it's possible. You'll be 6.5 weeks habituated in a new way of life. You'll be ready to be raised with Christ to a new plane of existence.

If you're getting a late start on Lent, no worry. Just begin now. Give it a try. See what happens!

Following Christ with you,
Rev. Kim

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Beginning February 26, and continuing through Lent, Rev. Kim is preaching a sermon series called "40 Ways of Purpose". This series will begin with Jesus' 40-day fast and temptation in the wilderness. Then Rev. Kim will explore five additional Bible stories that have to do with the number 40. In advance, just for fun, how many (and which) Bible stories can you think of that include the number 40? Whether you're a Bible whiz or need a refresher, come to worship and learn!

POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER AFTER CHURCH

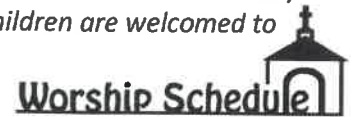
March 5, 2023



Offered by UWF, this is an opportunity for an easy Sunday meal. The baked potato comes with condiments and dessert. Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$8.00 each. Contact Karen Lee, Linda Gates or Julie Coley.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School in-person & Zoom
 - 10:00 a.m. In-person Worship and via Facebook Live
 - 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School or Kids' Corner
- Note: On first Sundays of the month there is no Sunday School. During the sermon, children are welcomed to the Kids' Corner.
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time



late for church!

Be sure you spring ahead before you come to worship on Sunday, March 12. You don't want to be

MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS IS PINECLIFF CAMPERSHIPS



The mission emphasis for March is Pinecliff Camperships. Pinecliff Camp & Retreat Center, an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church, is located 18 miles east of Coalville,

UT, a little over an hour drive from Ogden. Each year, they offer camps for children from kindergarten through 12th grade. Campers will come to know and understand the God of creation as they join cross-age family groups and same age cabin groups for activities. Explore God's presence in all aspects of life, meet old and new friends in singing, stories and sharing. Dates and costs are listed below. The money collected for camperships will support kids from all over Utah who need financial help to attend camp and create relationships and memories that will continue to deepen their love for God. If your child (or grandchild) is interested in attending camp, contact Brenda Boren for more information and registration forms. For more information about Pinecliff Camp, visit www.pinecliffcamputah.org.

Elementary Camp: (Grade K-6) July 17-21, 2023. **Fee before July 1, \$200.**

After July 1, \$225. (Note: Kindergarten campers must have an adult stay during camp.)

Junior/Senior High Camp: (Grade 6-12) July 24-28, 2-23. **Fee before July 1, \$200.**

After July 1, \$225.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



FUMC hosts a Girl Scout troop in our building. The girls will be attending worship with us on **Sunday, March 19**. If you ever were a Girl Scout and still have any Girl Scout clothing or badges, please wear them to church that day. After worship, **the Girl Scouts will be selling us their cookies**. Please come prepared with the checkbook or cash. (If you gave up cookies for Lent, please know that you can freeze them until later.)

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Save the Date: April 1st (no fooling)

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Gather up your garden tools, gloves and trash bags and come help us beautify the church grounds as we get ready for Easter.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Adult Sunday School Class is continuing their study of the Gospel of Mark. Steve James is the leader. Bring your own Bible or use one in the classroom. The class meets in the Wesley Room, **8:45-9:45 a.m.** This is a basic Bible study. New students are welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

Go off-road for a **Monumental** adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest.



Mark the dates of June 5th-9th, 2023, from 5:00-8:00 pm each evening. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead and celebrate God's greatness. The week will be filled with amazing experiments, creative games, surprising adventures, and incredible music. Come and make some new friends! This off-road adventure is open to children ages 3 through 6th grade. Register online at fumcogdenut.org beginning **April 1**. Contact Brenda at b.boren34@gmail.com if you have any questions.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



On February 26, our Sunday School children started a new rotation unit called People Welcome Jesus. Through art, games, mission, science and more, children will learn the stories of Jesus entering Jerusalem. They will discover that Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover with his friends and will also learn how the Church celebrates Holy Week.

The Bible verse for this 6-week rotation is "*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*" (Mark 11:9b) and the anchor point is *We Praise God for Jesus!*

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the workshops. This session runs through April 2. If you would like to assist with a workshop, please sign-up on the clipboard in the narthex. We also need volunteers for Kids' Corner. Please talk to Brenda if you have any questions.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.** All children ages 2 years old – 6th

grade are welcome. Join us for crafts, treats, and all those eggs full of surprises. Invite a friend!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

We need your help in filling the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt! We have enough plastic eggs but invite you to take home some empty ones and bring them back filled with candy. Please remember to use only individually wrapped candy. Bags contain 24 eggs will be available in the narthex beginning March 12. Please return filled eggs to the church no later than Sunday, April 2.



April 2—Palm Sunday. The children will wave palm branches during 10:00 a.m. worship.

April 6—Maundy Thursday. We will worship at Community UMC (in person or livestream) at 7:00 p.m.

April 7—Good Friday. CUMC will join us for worship at FUMC (in person or livestream) at 7:00 p.m.

April 8—Saturday Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m. at FUMC.

April 9—Easter Sunday. We will have worship at 10:00 a.m.

UWF MEETING MARCH 28 AT 1:00 PM



United
Women
in Faith

The program for **March 28th** gathering of United Women in Faith will be presented by Julie Coley.

The topic is our annual Prayer and Self Denial emphasis with opportunity to encourage mission projects benefitting women, children and youth through our special offering.

All women of the church are invited at 1 pm. in the Wesley Room.

UWF sponsored High Tea (**April 15th**) mission fundraiser event update: plans are pending. Stay tuned.....

BOOK TALK

The Book Talk book of the month is *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. Join us on **Monday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of Cheryl Thompson for our book discussion (in-person only). Contact Cheryl at [801-389-9864](tel:801-389-9864) for further



information. Our book list for 2023 is:

Book Talk bookmarks are available in the narthex. Contact Cheryl at [801-389-9864](tel:801-389-9864) for further information.

GARDEN PLANNING MEETING

The FUMC community garden was on sabbatical last year, but we hope to get it growing vegetables again this year. Dean Stephens has agreed to lead the effort. He would like all potential gardening helpers to meet with him at the church on **Saturday, March 4, at 10:00 a.m.** to begin planning. The group will meet in the Wesley Room, and then go out to the garden space, weather permitting. If you would like to communicate with Dean directly, his cell phone is 801-603-6220. He's a good texter.



BEEKEEPING MINISTRY NEWS



BUZZ!!

The First United Methodist Beekeeping Ministry is ready to kick off a new season. We welcome interested people of all ages to help us keep the bees and make products with honey and beeswax. We make and sell items to support our ministry and to make donations to worthy charities the world over. Currently we are supporting a U.M.C. missionary in East Angola. Kutula Katembo teaches sustainable agriculture to farmers there. We also visit a few elementary school classrooms in the Spring to teach children the importance of the honey bee to our world. Generally we meet at the hives every 3 weeks, April to October. Then once a month or so we gather to make honey products.

Our products are for sale at this website: kristenshoney.com. We also participate in the church women's craft fair, held in October.

Our first meeting will be a Zoom gathering on Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00-8:00 pm. Please email Kristen Bell at: bellf4m@comcast.net to get a copy of the Zoom link if you want to join in.

NEWS FROM KUTELA KATEMBO

Mission: Quessua UMC Agriculture Center

Dear Faithful brothers and sisters,

In Christ, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that the year 2023 finds you all well and healthy by the Grace of the Lord.

At the start of this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support during 2022. Your blessings have brought life to some of the communities that we serve and they in turn are happy and gracious. I believe that together we will continue to show the love of God through this ministry.

A lot has been happening within the community we serve at the Quessua Agriculture Center. As always, our main objective is improving community livelihoods. After empowering the community vegetable production with seed distribution, we were able to further this by issuing hoes and machetes. These are tools essential to helping villagers to prepare the land for upcoming seasonal crop production of beans and peanuts once the second rains arrive.

Witnessing the joy and happiness on the faces of beneficiaries upon receiving their tools certainly confirms the value of this effort. One could see in their faces that this gesture went beyond their comprehension. The people are extremely grateful and thankful to God. What I mostly hear from them that is so touching to my heart is them saying: "May God bless the donors and sources of these gifts and may God repay them a hundred times". The Quessua villagers live in a world where they often feel abandoned, marginalized and forgotten so these seemingly small gestures validate their lives more than we can ever know. The community knows that this blessing is coming from you, and they always pray for you.



(Peanut Harvesting)

Collaborating with some of our project supporters, the Quessua farm has launched a pilot project for peanut

production. The plan is to use the peanut to make RUFT (Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food) for treatment of severe acute malnutrition in children. The project has been welcomed by the community and they have eagerly participated in the cultivation, weeding, and now harvesting of the peanuts.

The Quessua farm is expanding the production of pigs. We have recently finished construction of a piggery with capacity for 18 stalls for female pigs and we are expecting to receive the pigs by the end of February. The community we serve will be put into groups for those wanting to rear pigs and will be given a couple of piglets to start with. We will encourage the community to share their production with others.



(The new piggery. Kutela with farmworker children)

We have another dream for this year! Poultry Production with emphasis on egg production! To accomplish this, we need to build a large chicken coop building for laying chickens. The eggs will be beneficial for the malnourished children of the community as well as for the long term financial self-sustainability of the farm. Together this dream for 2023 can be alive!

I am very grateful for the support you continue to give to our project and to myself as a missionary.

May God bless you,
Kutela

FELLOWSHIP HOUR



Fellowship time host sign-ups for March are now available on the clipboard table in the narthex. Thank you, February hosts John & Lynette Gerritsen, Ed & Margaret Weimer, UMM, and Christine Parke (again). The coffee and treats after worship services are much appreciated!

Thank You!

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your support and generous contribution in the amount of \$500.00 in 2022. This donation was used for the care of the homeless and in furtherance of the charitable purposes of our organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and those that call Lantern House home, we thank you for your support in 2022 and look forward to working with you in 2023.

With gratitude,
Lauren Navidomskis, Exec Director

Dear FUMC,

I want to thank you for all your love and prayers through my daughter Christina's difficult pregnancy. I also want to ask you to continue praying for mother and babies. Everest and Silas were delivered by Caesarian section. The twins will remain at Johns Hopkins Medical Center for six weeks after their Feb. 20th birth. The smaller baby Silas will be kept in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) until he is more developed. This will mean daily 1.5-hour commutes for the parents, even as they are dealing with unfathomable medical bills. Christina is deeply touched and so very thankful for your prayers. My parents, Nora and Ken Hughes, have let me know that some of you have asked for contact information, so you can send cards: Christina & Noah Embury, 25 Pioneer Lane, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Gratefully, Karen Embury

Dear Ogden First UMC,

Thank you for supporting A Table For All. Your gift of \$64.28 is an investment in God's churches that will have a lasting impact for today's children and future generations. [This was in addition to the \$614.28 previously sent.]

Thank you, A Table For All

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generosity of \$181.00 during 2022 and for showing God's love to vulnerable children and families. In a year that brought new and ongoing challenges for much of our world, your faithful support equipped people to create lasting change for themselves and their communities, building resilience for the future.

With your partnership in 2022 together we:

- Responded to the **conflict in Ukraine** by reaching 360,718 people in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Georgia – including 131,974

children – with food assistance, temporary shelter, hygiene kits, education and more

- Reached 15,536,279 people with assistance in the hardest-hit countries suffering from a **global hunger crisis**, including 8,471,866 children
- Helped establish lasting access to **clean water** for over 3 million people, improve sanitation for 2.7 million, and equip 3.4 million with access to household handwashing facilities
- Served 3.59 million children and adults through our **programs in the U.S.**, including over 80,000 reached through disaster response

Thank you for your faithful support and care, protecting and serving the most vulnerable.

With deepest gratitude, Edgar Sandoval, Sr.
World Vision President & CEO

Spring Bulb Flowering Plants for Easter Sunday



This year, the Worship Committee would like to have an assortment of spring bulb flowering plants (lilies, tulips, hyacinths,

daffodils, etc.) to use for Easter Sunday to decorate the altar area. We are inviting those interested to sign up to purchase a plant by Sunday, April 2. The plants can be taken home after the Easter Sunday service to give away or plant in a yard to enjoy year after year. Price per plant will be \$15.00 each. We want to have at least 10 plants purchased for the Easter service this year. Forms are available to complete in the narthex on a clipboard. Payment for the plants should be submitted to the church office with the completed form (also found below) marked "Easter Flower Plants". Due date to sign up for plants is **SUNDAY, APRIL 2.**

EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM – FOR EASTER SUNDAY (due by April 2)

Yes, I want to purchase a plant to decorate the sanctuary for Easter!

NAME

IN HONOR/ MEMORY OF (circle which)

HOW MANY PLANTS _____

PHONE CONTACT (for questions if needed)

PAYMENT ENCLOSED (\$15.00 / per plant)
