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though many will choose to
reject the message of salvation.



The Lenten season begins on Wednesday,
February 22 with an Ash Wednesday service,
at 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins Lent to remind believers that only with God's help can they overcome their sin and suffering as human beings. As Jesus entered into the wilderness, he needed God to defeat the devil. In a similar manner, believers entering Lent, a season of facing sin, need a reminder of their mortality, Ash Wednesday, to encourage their reliance on God.

“A Story of Rejection”

As we enter the Lenten season, we once again walk with our Lord Jesus Christ in his final days of ministry, impending crucifixion and glorious resurrection.

Mark records in chapter 6 of his own gospel the rejection that Jesus experienced in his hometown. He suggests that people rejected Jesus because they thought of him as an unimpressive “hometown boy”. Interestingly, we are given no content of his teaching, only a report that an encounter with Jesus provoked fierce resistance, even among those who were closest to him.

Mark links this story of rejection with the sending out of the disciples into ministry as if to say that the crisis that Jesus provoked would also afflict those who follow Jesus. So, the disciples needed instructions on how to handle the inevitable conflict. Another insight we glean from the text is that Jesus provoked controversy with his message and the disciples would as well with their message.

There was something in the teaching of Christ or in Christ as a person that turned away more people than were attracted to him. Jesus seemed to be willing to suffer rejection and be misunderstood by many. He was willing to do so because the truth and validity of his teaching was not dependent upon their acceptance. Jesus never tried to please everyone. He never felt the need to meet everyone’s needs in order for them to accept him. He was willing to be rejected because of the truth of his word and the realization that many would do so.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must be ready to testify of our faith even though many will choose to reject the message of salvation. We will soon discover that there are people God is preparing who will accept this “good news.” There are people who will want to know more about the Christ we serve. There are people who do have open hearts and open minds to the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

I would encourage all of us to be praying, speaking, and modeling the love and grace of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. May we all draw near to our Lord as this Lenten season approaches with a heart of expectancy as He provides opportunities to share His love with those around us.

Pastor Doug

Pastor Doug

God Bless Connie Andrews as she finishes years of leadership with the Compassionate Friends. Connie will continue to be active in the Compassionate Friends but will no longer be serving on the board.

Habits for a Healthy Soul

A Women’s Spiritual Retreat

Saturday, February 18, 2012, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 pm
At First United Methodist church, Hutchinson, KS
Registration cost is \$7.00 including a light breakfast. Registration deadline is Monday, February 13.

For more information contact the Hutch church office at 620-662-2386 or see the bulletin board outside the church office.

This workshop is presented by “Healthy Congregations in Action.”



Spring Cleaning Day

The Board of Trustees have set Saturday, February 11 at 9:00 am for an all church cleaning day. There will be something for everyone to do. Please plan to help.

Opportunities for 2012

- *We need people volunteer to do coffee fellowship on Sunday morning, contact Larry Mathews.
- *Sign up to drive the church bus, see Jack Kasper about driving.
- *Working with the youth see Carrie Holler about areas that need help.
- *Be a greeter on Sunday, let the church office know.
- *Willing to do the children moments once a month or every other, let the church office know.



Celebration of Love Service

The service is being held here at FUMC, our church is furnishing table service, drinks and the meat which will be cooked by the men. See more information on back. (page 4)

Connect, Serve, & Grow ~~~ *By Roy Pumphrey, Executive Minister*

"Since... you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV, 1984)

During the past couple of years a few of us met together to study and discuss two books written by James Bryan Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God* and *The Good and Beautiful Life*. One of the exercises we engaged in during this study was the memorization and recitation of Colossians 3:1-17.

Memorization has never come easy to me. Indeed, it takes a lot of work and energy. When we began memorizing this passage of scripture I did so with much dread of anxiety that I would not be able to do it; I had fear of embarrassment because I was leading the study. Nevertheless, I resolved to do it.

I was able to memorize the passage and I am so glad that I did. I find in the passage a short description of our new life in Christ. In that way it is instructive. I also find it a source of strength when faced with temptation. Reciting the passage provides encouragement. I recite the verse at least five times a week because I want to remember it. If I don't do this I know I'll soon forget it.

The passage begins with the encouragement to set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. We are encouraged to fix our hearts on Christ, as it is He who is above. This is a starting place for enjoying the life of Christ in us.¹ That alone is a source of joy and hope. It is a reminder we all need.

See Colossians 3:11

MISSION MOMENTS ~~by *Jay Anderson*

The Global Impact Celebration is Coming in April

The speaker for our GIC this year is Dr. Al Vom Steeg, the Senior International Director of the International Leadership Institute (ILI). He and his wife, Jane live in Santa Rosa, California. Al was president of The Mission Society from 1994-2001.

Al now travels all over the world teaching pastors how to be effective evangelists and missionaries who in turn train other pastors to be effective in their ministries. Recently he went to Ethiopia to help with the training in an area that has periodic conflicts.

"In Kenya, the History Makers Team had set an ambitious goal to train 1,000 young leaders within six months. An email reported that 381 leaders had already been trained.

"Dr. Peter Pereira, ILI South Asia, shared the report from Kenya and asked, 'How many of you will commit to train at least 50 leaders before the end of the year?

"All 70 leaders raised their hands. The commitment for these Orissa leaders is one of great passion."

Be sure to attend the GIC April 14-15 and hear the exciting developments that are happening in missions around the world.



Lenten Devotional

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation to celebrate Easter. To that end we are recommending **40 Days Living the Jesus Creed** by Scot McKnight. Experience forty days of reading about and reflecting on what Scot McKnight calls the Jesus Creed — "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31) We also encourage you to find one or more friends to talk together about what you are reading and learning during Lent.

We will order a few books to be available at the church (if you want us to order it for you let the Church Office know). The book is also available at Christian-Book.com, Amazon.com, or Faith and Life Bookstore can order one for you. It is available for Kindle and Nook readers, too. Lent will begin Wednesday, February 22.

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This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:

Office Hours: M-T, 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Friday 8:30 am—12:00 pm

- Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor
- Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor
- Roy Pumphrey, Executive Minister
- Roxie Truan, Administrative Assistant
- Beverly Stigge, Choir Director
- Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader
- Karen Kaufman, Organist
- Mary Beth Davies, Organist
- David Portlock, Custodian



Mission / Vision Statement of Souperbowl of Caring

Mission Statement—Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need.

Vision Statement—Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Sunday, February 5, Souperbowl of Caring

The youth will be at the doors of the sanctuary to collect money after each worship service for Harvest of Love. We have participated in the Souperbowl of Caring since 2003. During the 8 years we have collected \$1844.45. Sunday, February 5, is our regular Sunday to bring food also for Harvest of Love.

Sunday, February 5, 5:00 pm—**Super Bowl Party**. The youth will serve chili and chili dogs at 5:00 pm. for a fundraiser They will deliver orders before the big game!



CELEBRATION OF LOVE SERVICE

will be held at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 12. There will be a Dinner in fellowship hall at 5:00 pm followed by the Celebration of Love Service at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This service is a celebration of the four UMC churches in Newton. All are encouraged to attend.