



# The Grapevine

Clarksbury United Methodist Church

15924 General Puller Highway, Hardyville, Virginia March 2021

[www.clarksburyumc.com](http://www.clarksburyumc.com)

Our Mission:

To receive and share God's love through worship, education, service and outreach.

## Pastor Ken's Corner

*John 3:13-21 (NRSV)*

*<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."*

**LENT** is a season for reflection and for prayer; for meditating on God's word; for fasting; and for performing and participating in acts of mercy. We are looking to open up our lives for more of Jesus' words and teachings to be evident in our thoughts and our daily actions. Our **Manner**, how we act and what we do, should come from the right **Motive**, the reason we are doing what we are doing. Throughout the 40 days of LENT, and indeed throughout the whole year, we should endeavor to be more Christlike in our thoughts and our actions.

**Easter** arrives on **April 4** but we should be living in the light of the risen SAVIOR the whole year through.

We have started our five-session **Lenten bible study** by **Max Lucado** titled **He Chose the Nails**. We meet in the social hall on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. There is still time to join the study as each of the lessons can be beneficial as a stand-alone study and conversation. I even have some study guides left. Consider joining us. We will follow COVID restrictions. Max Lucado is a splendid author to follow on the weighty subjects of our Christian faith. I **know** you will enjoy the study.

As we observe **Lent** and the **Holy Week** and **Easter** which closes out the season, our focus should be on **spiritually** getting to know our Savior Jesus the Christ more **intimately**. We should seek to understand just how **precious** is the gift Jesus **purchased** for us that day on a cross on Golgotha. We need to **meditate** on how much God loves us that He would send His very Son to **give His life** for our **redemption**.

***<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.***

As we meditate on Christ's sacrifice we should have in our hearts and minds an effort to try to grasp the love with which God has given us this precious gift of salvation through the Gift of Christ. Christ is sent by the Father not to condemn us because we are imperfect or are prone to sin even when we want to do good. He who is without sin, **Jesus**, is sent in order that we who are unable through our own efforts to avoid sin, are washed **white as snow in the blood** of the perfect **Lamb of God** and thereby **made clean and saved through** our faith in what Jesus accomplishes for us.

***<sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."***

As we pray and meditate throughout **Lent**, and for that matter throughout the year, we pray to the Father **because of the light that has come into the world**. Because we love the **LIGHT** we do what is true so that it may clearly be seen that our deeds are done because of the teachings and the motives with which we act is to please Jesus and to please God. We do the good deeds not through our own power, but rather, through the **Light of Christ which is in us**. Let us deliberately demonstrate that we have come into the **LIGHT and the LIGHT has been and is being reflected in all our deeds**.

So, throughout **LENT** this year, let us be focused on piety and thankfulness and gratitude for what **God** has done and is doing **FOR** us and **IN** us through **Jesus and the Holy Spirit**.

The **Cryer Center Mobile Food Pantry** is scheduled to be at Clarksbury on **Saturday, March 6**. Our church has the lead again. The Food Pantry and the Soup Ministry have modified the way these ministries are conducted to be in compliance with the CDC and Virginia COVID-19 requirements. We always need prayers; so even if you can't be here to work the Food Pantry, pray for us and the people we serve.

I can't say enough about the generosity and efforts of our **Soup Ministry/Prayer Warriors/Prayer Partners** in providing meals, soup, gifts, cards, letters and calls to many of our members as well as those at Fishing Bay Estates and other locations.

Keep the small groups and gatherings in your prayers as we look to new ways to restart these meaningful and joyful worship and sharing opportunities.

Our online services will continue both on Facebook and YouTube. **THANK YOU** to all who are part of this effort. **We are a Church** in the truest sense of the word...**together**, through the power of our Lord Jesus, the grace of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I am very humbled, beyond words, with how **faithful and loyal** you all have been in supporting the church with **prayers, tithes, gifts, talents and witness** in spite of our inability to be able to support with our presence.

Help me keep the **Prayer Warrior/Partners'** e-mails updated as information and changes become available. Let us continue in faith and hope to be children of God infused with the Holy Spirit throughout all the travails and trials of life in this world.

Let us continue to **pray for the increasing number of people who encounter COVID-19** and are exposed to or are suffering from the illness.

Many of us have gotten the shots or are scheduled to receive the shots. Many have had some reactions to the vaccine, which show up some hours after the shot, **especially the second one**. If you live alone, let a friend or someone else know about your getting the vaccines so that they can be sure you are okay.

**Peace & Grace,**

**Pastor Ken**

## ***A Message from Your Lay Leader***

### ***A Spiritual Spring House Cleaning***

***Warren Wright***

#### **ARE WE IN NEED OF A SPIRITUAL HOUSECLEANING?**

Paul apparently thought so. He wrote, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

Let's look at several very important things that Paul mentions as he writes to the church at Corinth concerning the spiritual cleansing that was needed.

1. He writes with affection ("beloved").
2. He employs the plural ("us, we").
3. He puts the burden of cleansing upon ourselves...not on God!
4. He challenges the church and himself to perform a complete cleansing ("all defilement of flesh and spirit").
5. The Apostle goes on to encourage everyone to "perfect holiness" in the fear of God. The call is not to "tidy up" our lives, but to cleanse our lives.

#### **PROCEED TO THE "LIVING AREA" OF YOUR DAILY LIFE.**

Some "closets" in our spiritual life that may need to be cleaned.  
Bad habits need to be removed  
Profane speech needs cleaned up  
Some TV shows might need turned off.

#### **WE MUST REMEMBER WHOSE "HOUSE" IT REALLY IS!**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,  
whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." I Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

**"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Thy word." Psalm 119:9**

**United Methodist Men News**  
**Warren Wright-UMM President**



The UMM will hold our regular monthly meeting on Monday March 22nd at 7 PM. **Masks** and **social distancing** will be required.

Remember that there are no membership or dues requirements to be a part of the United Methodist Men of Clarksbury, just a willingness to serve Jesus Christ within your church and community.

Mission-To Help Men Grow In Christ, So Others May Know Christ.

*Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
 Christ behind me, Christ within me,  
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me.*

*--Saint Patrick*

<b>Annual Budget</b> for 2021 Operating Funds:	<b>\$115,711.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b> for Operating Funds as of February 7 :	13,206.64
<b>Total Needed by February 28:</b>	<b>6078.53</b>



## Nurture and Outreach

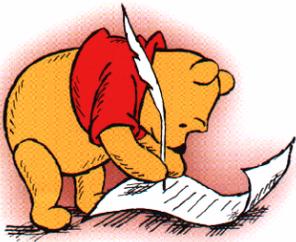
### Jerry Dant

Well, we have made it through another month in the pandemic and we hope to be back to church soon to worship with our friends. During the month of February, Valentine cards were sent to the home bound members and the college girls. I am sure they were thrilled to see a big red Valentine in the mail box with their Home Touch for the week.

Outreach has joined with the Soup Ministry ladies to provide a surprise when they are taking soup to the residents at Fishing Bay Estates. In February the ladies delivered a box of Valentine candy and card from our church for "Sweethearts Day."

We will have a meeting soon to discuss plans for the coming year and if you have any ideas, please let us know. Thanks and God Bless.

**Mail a letter or card of happiness to our home bound members!**



If your last name starts with the letter listed below, please send a card or note to the shut-ins listed.

Why not make a home bound member smile by sending them a card often as well as on their birthday.

If we all participate, our home bound members will get a card frequently from church members, and will have more great memories of Clarksbury.

<b>A-C</b>		
<b>D-G</b>	Reggie Jackson <b>7/12</b> 672 Gloucester Road Saluda, VA 23149	
<b>H-L</b>	Myrtle Clark <b>10/2</b> P.O. Box 302 Deltaville, VA 23043	Pastor Jim Salmon <b>5/24</b> 26306 Mattaponi Trail Milford, VA 22514
<b>M-Z</b>		

# MARCH POP



With permission, this month's Power of Prayer is:  
*Use Me*, a song by Randy Crittenden.

*I want to be Your voice, Lord. I want to speak the words  
To tell Your people what You want to say  
Use me to spread the news about the living God  
Use me to do your will today*

*I want to be Your hands, Lord and touch my brother's life  
To help my neighbor each and every day  
Use me to build a world where right will conquer wrong  
Use me to do Your will today*

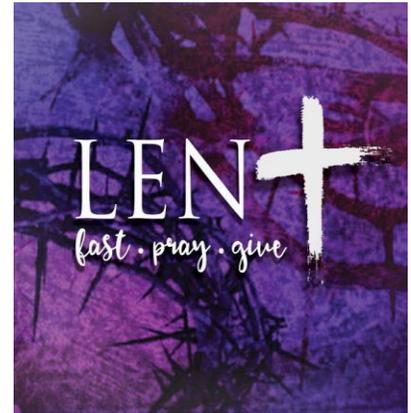
*Let the words I'm speaking, Lord and let my actions be  
A reflection of Your will and not my own*

*I want to be Your heart, Lord I want to share Your love  
And teach Your children how to kneel and pray  
Use me to show the world the wonders of Your grace  
Use me to do Your will today*

# 40 Days of Lent: Find your own spiritual path

By Joe Iovino

During [Ash Wednesday services](#) on the first day of Lent, many United Methodist pastors invite their congregations "to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" (from the [United Methodist Book of Worship](#)). While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might "observe a holy Lent."



There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## **Fasting**

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping or something else through the season. This is a [religious practice known as fasting](#). We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to [focus on devotional practices](#) like Bible study and prayer during the season.

*Spending extra time in Bible reading and prayer is a great way to observe Lent*

## **Bible reading**

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The [Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide](#) will help guide you in this pursuit. It provides a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about each day.

## **Prayer**

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding [more time in your life for prayer](#). You can experiment with [different ways to pray](#) during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

## **Service**

Another way to observe a holy Lent is to take on a new way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

## **Rest**

An important practice with which many of us struggle is [the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath](#). We don't have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a [desktop meditation](#) or listen to sermons during your commute. Each can be a great way of enriching your Lent.

## **Child resources**

You will also want to find ways to share the meaning of the season with the children in your life. While their focus may be on Easter baskets and new clothes, you can enter into special times to help them find deeper meaning to the season.

*Even dyeing Easter Eggs with family members can become a time to deepen our faith experience. Photo by United Methodist Communications.*

Consider trying some [traditions from other cultures to enhance your Easter](#) celebration. Make instruments during Lent that you can use to celebrate the resurrection in song on Easter Sunday, similar to Christians in Zimbabwe. Or try some special Easter foods, like the Easter breakfast cakes of Poland.

Even while dyeing Easter Eggs you can creatively teach children about your faith by sharing [The Importance of the Egg: Children and Easter](#) video, which tells of the symbolism of the Easter Egg in a wonderfully lively way.

## Learning

You may also use Lent as a time to [learn about the seasons of Lent and Easter](#), and some of the practices of the Christian church.

Learning about rituals specific to the season can enhance your worship. You may want to know more about the [ashes used on Ash Wednesday](#), a Maundy Thursday [footwashing service](#) you're considering attending, or the [Tenebrae service](#) your congregation is planning for Good Friday.

You may also choose to learn more about [baptism](#) and [communion](#), the sacraments of the church. Each has a connection to Lent and Easter.

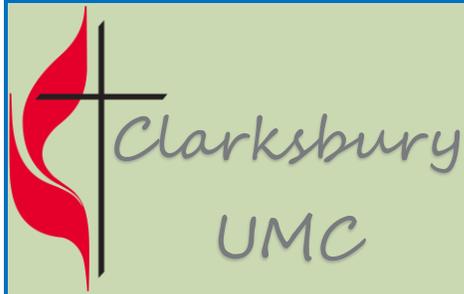
## Worship

Many United Methodist churches offer services on Ash Wednesday to begin of Lent, and other special services during Holy Week, the final days leading up to Easter. There may also be special times of prayer, study, and other gatherings that will help you continue your journey throughout the season. If you are not connected to a United Methodist congregation, use [Find-A-Church](#) to locate one close to you.

This 40-day journey called Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith. Find your path of self-reflection and spiritual discovery, and invite others to join you as you seek to observe a holy Lent.

*Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. He may be reached at [jjovino@umcom.org](mailto:jjovino@umcom.org).*

*This story was originally posted February 10, 2015, and updated on February 16, 2021.*



# Grapevine March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Noon Prayer	4 Noon Prayer	5 Noon Prayer	6 Mobile Food Pantry Clarksbury Noon Prayer
7 Linda Dobbins Noon Prayer	8 Noon Prayer	9 Noon Prayer	10 Noon Prayer	11 Noon Prayer	12 Chuck Banker Alison Crittenden Noon Prayer	13 Noon Prayer
14 Peggy Vaudt Noon Prayer	15 Soup Ministry Noon Prayer	16 Ronnie Teagle Noon Prayer	17 Bible Study 1pm Noon Prayer	18 Noon Prayer	19 Noon Prayer	20 Corey Buchanan Noon Prayer
21 Noon Prayer	22 UMM 7pm Noon Prayer	23 Noon Prayer	24 Bible Study 1pm Noon Prayer	25 Noon Prayer	26 Mark White Noon Prayer	27 Noon Prayer
28 April Mauney Noon Prayer	29 Linda Davis	30	31			

The deadline for the **April 2021** Grapevine will be **wednesday, March 24** Send March **Birthdays** (If you know of any additions, deletions or corrections that should be made to the birthday calendar, please let the newsletter editor know.)