



Vian United Methodist Church
MONTHLY NEWS

February 2018

Souper Bowl Sunday
 February 4th after service

Leadership Day Saturday
 Feb. 10th 11a-4p Please RSVP

Ash Wednesday service
 Feb. 14 7pm

Movie Night Friday Feb 16th 7pm at Gore UMC



The season of Lent is a wonderful time to start weekly family devotions. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days, not including Sundays. Sundays are excluded because those are the days we remember Jesus' resurrection. Every Sunday is a little celebration of Easter and a time of joy.

Historically, the Christian church has recognized Lent as a time to bring people closer to God. Individuals and groups engage in Bible study, in mission and service, and in fasting to prepare themselves for Easter.

The forty days of Lent are symbolic of Jesus' time in the wilderness before he began his ministry. During that time, he was tempted; but he stayed true to God.



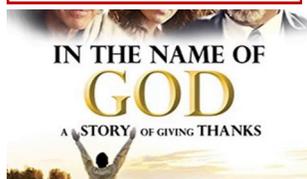
To everyone who made us feel so loved and grateful with the baby shower for Morgan and baby Jasper! They are still in the NICU and unable to send thank you cards but were overwhelmed by your love and generosity.



All who have recently joined us for worship.. Ray, Angelica, Jeff, Steven, Donna & Gene. Welcome!



Friday February 16th 7pm at Gore UMC



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During the Ash Wednesday service, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.



Saturday February 10th from 11a-4p we will be gathering to share dreams, visions, ideas and ourselves with one another. This is a day for all who serve or have a thought of serving in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The event is free, but you are asked to RSVP to Pastor Marcia or Andrea Salsbury ASAP so that we can plan appropriately with supplies.

Drinks, snacks and childcare will be provided for attendees.



We're currently in a series titled "Developing Good Habits" on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We invite you to join us for study, worship, praise and fellowship. We start the evening with a light meal at 6pm

Bible Study

You're invited at 2:00 each Wednesday for mid-week Bible study. This is a great way to get that mid-week "pick me up" we all need and an opportunity to come together in a relaxed atmosphere as we dig deep into the scriptures. Invite a friend, we'll have the coffee pot on!

LADIES' Fellowship & Bible Study

Each 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 6:30pm. All are invited!

Visit the church website often to keep up with all the latest!

www.vianumc.com



February 14th 7pm
Vian UMC

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Lent is a beautiful time in the church year. It is the season when we recommit ourselves to a life of faith. We examine our life and lifestyles and assess the strength of our commitment to God. It is a time of repentance, acknowledging those areas where we might have turned our hearts away from God. It is also a time of adopting spiritual disciplines that will bring us back or closer to God. Most importantly, Lent is a season of action. Do something for Lent! I pray that the season will bring you closer to God, your neighbors and yourself.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. Our Lenten Journey is no different. As Christians, we embark upon a daily movement from exile, from life under the burden of sin (our failure to trust God) to the joy of the forgiveness that is ours in Jesus. As we begin this journey, don't be surprised to discover that Jesus travels with us. All of your sins have already been laid on Him. He has always been our guide from the beginning, and He will journey with us to the end. We embark on this Lenten journey contemplating the reality of our earthly journey with eyes fixed on the destination: the empty tomb and the open gates of eternal life. We do this with the confidence of knowing that we do not walk alone!

Where do we get this confidence? In God's Word. In Baptism. In Holy Communion. Because God says so, we know that all of this is true. "And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." It's an already accomplished fact. Because God says so!

In the hope that we might all observe this season of Lent together, I have provided a 2018 daily reading plan. This is the plan that I will be following through Lent and I hope you will join me on this journey where we might read, study and reflect daily upon God's words to us.

May we all find ourselves more connected, more equipped and more in love with Jesus every day.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Marcia*