



# MUMC Compass

March 2025

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION

Lent is upon us. We are mindful of the season we are about to encounter, knowing that we've been here so many times before. But does repetition make for improvement? Having experienced countless Lenten seasons, are we experts? Not necessarily, sometimes familiarity can cause a diminished appreciation or respect for a thing. This outcome is just part of human nature. However, we can benefit from repetition if we are careful appreciate what we plan to undertake. Yes, we may need to take a moment to assess our preparedness for Lent. First, to carefully consider what it means. Next to be intentional in realizing an outcome consistent with it's virtues. And last but not least, living daily into a heightened reflective and sacrificial relationship with Christ.

*<sup>22</sup> But be sure you live out the message and do not merely listen to it and, so deceive yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he gazes at himself and then goes out and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there and does not become a forgetful listener but one who lives it out, he will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:23-25)*

### What Is Lent:

Historians generally agree that Lent emerged shortly after the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. The tradition was initially designed as a fasting and reflective period for new converts as a preparatory act for baptism. Although some aspects of Lent have changed over the centuries, it essentially has remained the same. It was and is practiced as a 40 period before Resurrection Sunday where people, through **fasting, prayer, and reflection**, consider the meaning of Resurrection Sunday. In essence, Lent is a personal inward search for the esoteric (*inner-meaning*) nature of Christ's sacrifice and subsequent resurrection. In the sense of an honest and intentional engagement of the means of grace to apprehend Resurrection Sunday, there is no one right way to engage Lent. It is and must remain a deeply personal journey for the faithful newly introduced to Christ and the seasoned saint, who is still in love with God and learning how to love others.

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived. God will not be made a fool. For a person will reap what he sows, <sup>8</sup> because the person who sows to his own flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:7-9)*

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### **A Virtuous Season:**

It's easy to engage Lent based on what you have seen others do, but not necessarily edifying. For example, you may deny yourself a particular food you like for 40 days, decide on no television for 40 days, or pray a specific prayer for 40 days. None of these are wrong in themselves. However, to obtain real biblical virtue, some personal reflection on one's spiritual life; your strengths, weaknesses, doubts, questions, secret sin, love of God, deepest desires, and so on must all be laid bare before God and self. Then an assessment of what 'act(s)' could be engaged to improve, repair, strengthen, deepen understanding, or transform self to the virtuous form of a Christ. Lent is to have our eyes fixed on Jesus' cross and resurrection, but our hearts on becoming whatever that means. And that meaning can only be found through intentional and meaningful reflection with God and self which culminates into a commitment of action!

*<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he makes himself available; call to him while he is nearby! <sup>7</sup>The wicked need to abandon their lifestyle and sinful people their plans. They should return to the Lord, and he will show mercy to them, and to their God, for he will freely forgive them. (Isaiah 55:6-8)*

### **Life After Lent:**

Our life after Lent is our life in Christ. According to John 1 we are recipients of Christ's life which is reflected through us as light! Our life after Lent cannot be defined in any book or manual. It is too personal and intimate in its connection to your personal relationship with Christ. Life after Lent is what God has designed it to be for you! It is grace offered to you that you might become sanctified. It is time with God that you might grow in understanding. It is the presentation of self as a living sacrificial offering to God. So, start praying and thinking about the **thing** which needs attending in your life. Consider how Jesus' cross and resurrection might speak to that **thing** and what practice(s) may keep you mindful of Christ's mind it... In any mode of reflection and connection you choose always include prayer and reading of the Word.

***12** Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.*

*(Romans 12:1-2)*

**Yours In Christ,**  
*Marty McMichael*  
**Sr. Pastor**

1	9:00am	Hand Bells	12	5:45pm	Choir	21	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie
	10:00am	AA Meeting		7:00pm	NA Meeting		5:00pm	Private Event Fellowship Hall
2	5:00pm	Youth Fellowship	13	7:00pm	GA Meeting		8:00am	Private Event Fellowship Hall
3			14	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie		9:00am	Hand Bells
4	11:00am	Staff Meeting		9:30am	Feeder of the Pack		10:00am	AA Meeting
	6:00pm	Cub Scouts	15	9:00am	Hand Bells	23		
5	7:00pm	Ash Wed. Service		10:00am	AA Meeting	24		
	7:00pm	NA Meeting		10:30am	Book Club	25	6:00pm	Cub Scouts
6	6:00pm	Scouts of the Round Table	16	1:00pm	Lucky Charm Luncheon	26	9:00am	Holy Folders
	7:00pm	GA Meeting		5:00pm	Youth Fellowship		5:30pm	Choir
7	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie	17		St. Patrick's Day		7:00pm	Bible Study
	10:30am	Healthy Living Presentation			Meals on Wheels Week		7:00pm	NA Meeting
8	7:30am	Women's Bus Trip	18	11:00am	Staff Meeting	27	7:00pm	GA Meeting
	7:30am	UMM Breakfast		6:00pm	SAS Meeting	28	9:00am	Stretching w/Rosie
	9:00am	Hand Bells		6:00pm	Cub Scouts	29	9:00am	Hand Bells
	10:00am	AA Meeting		7:00pm	Service & Mission		10:00am	AA Meeting
9		Daylight Savings	19	9:00am	Nurture & Care	30	Noon	Our Neighbors Table
10	4:00pm	Bible Journaling		5:30pm	Choir	31		
11	10:45am	Young at Heart		7:00pm	NA Meeting			
	5:45pm	SS Team	20	7:00pm	GA Meeting			



# HAPPY Anniversary

9	<b>Matt &amp; Elaine Hardwig</b>
18	<b>Jon &amp; Lou Anne Lough</b>

2	Paul Bitner	14	Mary Ellen Brown
3	Willard Ellis	16	Patrick Yates
7	Brandie Bitner	18	Caitlin Doody
9	Gloria Likins	18	Fiona Fletcher
9	Wilma Westerfield	18	Marilyn Perry
10	Aaron Erbes	19	Marlene Gibbs
10	Sharon Medlen	19	Corey Zimmerman
10	Mason Olenkiewicz	25	Pat Hall
10	Bill Slider	25	Jacob Presley
10	Patti Thraikill	26	Everett Snyder
12	Everett Blackwell	27	Harper Ellermeyer
12	Brie Imhoff	28	Ray Burroughs
12	Todd Lirely	29	Lexi Robinson
13	Brad Fager	31	Kort Green

**Ash**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**March 5th at 7pm**

Date	Friday Volunteer
Feb 28th	Sandy Herring
Mar 7th	Janet Porter
Mar 14th	Nancy Fager
Mar 21st	Sharon Jones
Mar 28th	Terri Twenhafel



Date	Greeters	Liturgist	Usher Team
Mar 2nd	<b>Sharon Graff</b>	<b>Erin Mileur</b>	<b>3-Patti Mills</b>
Mar 9th	<b>Janet Porter</b>	<b>Gene Schwebel</b>	<b>2-Todd Lirely</b>
Mar 16th	<b>Janet Porter</b>	<b>Vanessa Lirely</b>	<b>2-Todd Lirely</b>
Mar 23rd	<b>Shelia Stewart</b>	<b>Cameron Taylor</b>	<b>1-Rick Runge</b>
Mar 30th	<b>Barb Hughes</b>	<b>Nancy Fager</b>	<b>1-Rick Runge</b>



**LUCKY CHARM LUNCHEON**  
**SUNDAY MARCH 16TH 1:00PM**  
**Tickets On Sale NOW!** \$20.00

Corned Beef-N-Cabbage & all the fixins,  
 Music by Carter & Conely, Silent Auction,  
 Best Dressed (Green & Gold) Contest,  
 Youth Decorating Contest (a penny a vote)

Funds collected at this event will benefit the Church Operating Budget

The cost of tickets for the Lucky Charm Luncheon will be \$20.00 which includes Corned Beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots, drink, homemade bread and desserts and entertainment by the longtime popular Southern Illinois singing duo Carter and Connelly! Don't forget the silent auction (asking each church group (choir, SS Class, Youth, UMM, etc...) to secure a silent auction item), youth decoration contest, & of course our best dressed Green & Gold Costume contest.

For the month of March, the Seekers Adult Sunday School Class will be continuing with Season 3 of The Chosen. In Season 3, all 12 disciples face new fears when Jesus sends them on their first mission. But each faces his own unique burden, too: Matthew's estrangement from family, Little James' unhealed disability, Simon Z's unresolved past, and Simon and Eden's marriage crisis - just to name a few. Meanwhile, scores of newcomers like Veronica and Jairus desperately seek Jesus for relief from crushing crises and heavy-handed authorities, religious and Roman. Thousands ultimately converge on Jesus, first to argue then to listen. But as His preaching extends to the next day, they find themselves far from home, famished, and without any food to eat. Until a little boy with five loaves and two fishes shows up. . . Adults of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend for a time of study, fellowship, and prayer.



# Young at Heart on the Road

After two months of wintry weather, and Spring just around the corner, Young at Heart will be back on the road on Tuesday, March 11. We will be traveling to everyone's favorite Giant City Lodge for some of their great fried chicken and all the fixings. We will leave the MUMC Church Parking Lot at 10:45 am for 11:30 am reservations. Please join us for one of our most popular outings, and don't forget to invite a friend.



# Healthy Eating Presentation

Presented by : Janet Porter Retired Dietician

**March 7th  
10:30 - 11:30**

**MUMC Fellowship Hall**

**This event is free and open to anyone who would like more information on healthy eating. Please sign up on the attendance pad or by calling the church office.**



Sign up here for Sister-In-Spirit Seminar

<https://subsplash.com/grangehallchurch/lb/ev/+ymzd2tp>

For more information see bulletin or contact Rosie Wece.



## Sister-In-Spirit Ladies Seminar

**Sat., Mar 8th  
8 - Noon  
(Bus leaves at 7:30am)**

**Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church**

Breakfast included & shopping opportunities

**Must Register On-line, Sign up for BUS on attendance pad or the church office.**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2025 Festival of Quilts**  
**at Cunningham Children's Home Urbana, IL**  
**April 4th**

We will leave for The Festival of Quilts at 7:30 am from the MUMC parking lot. The Festival includes a quilt show, a quilt sale, Centerpieces and Such, a gift shop, a bake sale, and campus tours. The cost is a suggested donation of \$10 per person with the proceeds from the Festival of Quilts benefiting the more than 800 youth and families that the Cunningham Children's Home serves each year. Please join us in celebrating a tradition that offers warmth, comfort, and hope to the youth at Cunningham - a ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Tickets on Sale  
April 6th

Contact Rosie  
or Michelle  
for more  
information

# 15th Annual Women's Prayer Breakfast

Sat., May 3rd 9 - 11:30am

Will be held at Grace UMC in Carobndale

Breakfast, music,  
door prizes, silent auction,  
guest speaker.

Cost  
\$15 each

The Saturday Book Club  
Church Library  
March 15th, 10 a.m.

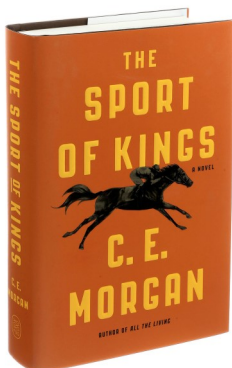
The Sport of Kings  
By C.E. Morgan



*The Sport of Kings* is an American tale centered on a horse and two families: one white, a Southern dynasty whose forefathers were among the founders of Kentucky; the other African-American, the descendants of their slaves.

It is a dauntless narrative that stretches from the fields of the Virginia piedmont to the abundant pastures of the Bluegrass, and across the dark waters of the Ohio River; from the final shots of the Revolutionary War to the resounding clang of the starting bell at Churchill Downs. As C. E. Morgan unspools a fabric of shared histories, past and present converge in a Thoroughbred named Hellsmouth, heir to Secretariat and a contender for the Triple Crown. Newly confronted with one another in the quest for victory, the two families must face the consequences of their ambitions, as each is driven—and haunted—by the same, enduring question: How far away from your father can you run?

A sweeping narrative of wealth and poverty, racism and rage, *The Sport of Kings* is an unflinching portrait of lives cast in the shadow of slavery and a moral epic for our time.



**Note: This is a big book so we are making it easy on ourselves—we will discuss the first half of the book in March, and the second half in April!**



The 9th My Own Bookcase Presentation Ceremony will be Sunday, April 27 at 1pm at the Murphysboro Elks Banquet Hall. Please join us as we will present 40 Head Start children who will be attending kindergarten this fall with their own bookcase and starter set of books. The look of excitement on the children's faces as they receive their bookcases and books is something that you won't want to miss!



**Our Neighbor's Table** is not just about food. We enjoy the fellowship with the people we serve and, as you can see, our volunteers have fun working together. Please join us on the last Sunday of the month (March 30th) at noon in the church fellowship hall. It will put a smile on your face, right Rosie!



Women's Prayer Forum  
Saturday, February 1,  
2025, at the Pittsburg  
Freewill Baptist Church

