



WELCOME TO LENT: LIVING BEYOND DEATH

The story of Lent is the salvation story. Salvation doesn't mean going to heaven after we die. It means being rescued from the power of self-centeredness that rules our lives. Just as the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt, we are slaves to sin and death. Sin works in us in ways we can't seem to control, and death creates bounds for our lives that we can't escape.

But just as Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt, Jesus delivers us from slavery to our self-centeredness. In his death and resurrection, we see the grace that sets us free from the power that sin, and our fear of death have over us. Jesus leads us to life in Infinite Love.

During Lent the scripture lessons will take us on a journey through and beyond death. We go with Jesus into the desert to face our temptations. We hear stories of new life, stories of death and resurrection, and stories of facing our mortality, surrender and self-giving.

Throughout, in response to our bondage to our fears, God offers us grace, healing, forgiveness, and new life. We are not commanded to go to the cross; we are attracted to resurrection through the cross. As Jesus goes to the cross with love in his heart, we learn to confront the evil powers of death in this world. By God's grace, we learn to live the resurrection life.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - March 5th at 12:15 & 6:30pm

LENTEN BOOK STUDY begins March 5 & 6

WEEKLY LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS are:

from 6-6:45pm on March 12, 19, 26, April 4, and 9

Join us every Wednesday in Lent from 6-6:50 pm for a soup and sustenance for your soul. We will have a soup & salad supper with scripture discussion led by Pastor Luis. Register weekly or for the entirety of Lent by texting SOUP to the church phone number. Communion will be served at all Sunday Services during Lent.

PALM SUNDAY - April 13th

Easter Family Event following the 9:30 service

Spring Cantata at 5:00pm

HOLY/MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - April 17th at 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES - April 18th

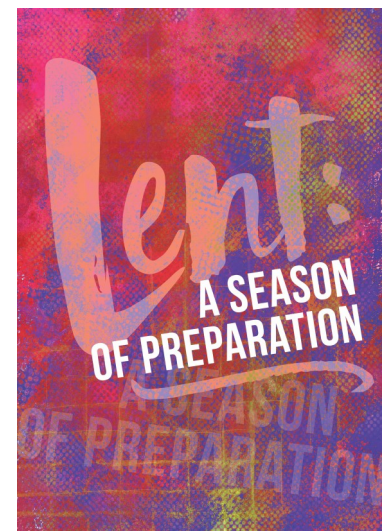
Ecumenical Service at 3:00pm

Evening Service at 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY - April 20th w/ services at:

7:30am, 9:30am and 4:30pm

Continental Breakfast will follow the 7:30am service



Check inside for other events happening during the month of March

SUMC STAFF

Rev. Luis Felipe Reyes-Rosario

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Debbie Elleson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

debbie@sycamoreumc.org

Craig Fritz

ORGANIST

craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org

Peter Hansen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

peter@sycamoreumc.org

Jim McCue

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

jim@sycamoreumc.org

Todd Puttkammer

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

todd@sycamoreumc.org

Becca Rome

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydlowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org

Cory Blanco

BREAKTHROUGH WORSHIP LEADER

cory@sycamoreumc.org



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



MARCH 2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:30am

Children's Sunday School at 9:30am & 4:30pm

Sunday Evening Service at 4:30pm

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc

March 2 – The Transfiguration of the Lord Services of Holy Communion

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

12:15 pm - Contemplative Worship Service

6:30 pm - Worship Service

both services will have Communion

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4; 1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23– 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH

Canned beans

Crackers

Canned fruit

Canned meals

(spaghettios, beefaroni
etc)

Crunchy Peanut butter

Canned veggies

Diced Tomatoes

Spaghetti sauce

Mayo

Salad Dressing

Boxed potatoes or
stuffing

Cereal

Paper towels

Tissues

Toiletries





Those for whom we pray:

Nancy	Carol Berndt
David Dykema	Jimmy Schmidt
Diana Grace	Carol Keneway
Beverly Duff	Mike Milyanovich
Jon Bean	Jerrica Newby
Neil Weir	Dwain Stadie
Mark McGee	Mark Westrom
Norma Clarner	Sharon Holmes
Rick Stewart	Dani Smith
Amy Kroos	Addison
Gary Blake	Jamoni Zander

We extend our sympathies to the families of:

Ann Smith
Hugh Bisco

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,	PO3 Samuel V. Bell
*SGT Ben Bushno	SGT Brock Grimaldi
SGT Shaune Clark	*SPC Alexis Jones
SGT Matthew Einhorn	*Maj Steve Haack
PFC Timothy Einhorn	PV2 Rachel McMillion
PO1 Frank Incapreo	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
SSG Christopher Isabel	SPC Sutit Jackson
Lt. Col. Garrett Slack	PV2 Liam Keller
MSG Matthew "Scott" Stewart	E-5 PO Hayden Royer
*LT Matthew Herbaugh	E-3 Amanda Royer
PVT Trevor Bassett	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>



Please keep your pastors & your church family informed! As policies surrounding confidentiality and patient's rights continue to be adjusted, hospitals and nursing homes no longer contact church offices to notify them that church members have been admitted. To insure that you desire and receive pastoral care, please call the church office, or have a friend/family member call on your behalf.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION
GOD'S GRACE AND GENEROSITY



As we enter the season of Lent, we focus on how God had a purpose for the life of Jesus and what it means for us. Just as Jesus came not to be served, but to love and serve others, by his grace God wants us to live lives in service to others. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." God gives us the gift of Jesus and the community of believers as examples to live by. He gives us special gifts of time, talents, and treasures to use. It is up to us to find purpose for these gifts and generously use them to glorify God. Take time for a book or bible study through the church, use your talents to help with church programs, and share your treasures to support the missions and ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church (besides cash and checks, you may securely give on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving or text "giving" to 815-895-9113). May you be inspired by God's grace to fully live as a generous Disciple of Jesus Christ.



HOPE HAVEN MEAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR MARCH

Prepare or buy just one course or the entire meal to feed 60-65 people! Deliver your contribution to Hope Haven in DeKalb or drop it off at the church by 3:30 on Monday. **Please call the church (815-895-9113) to let us know which delivery option you will be using. Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the Concourse or by calling the church office at 815-895-9113.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

ALL AGES

- **Lenten Soup Suppers:** Join us every Wednesday in Lent from 6-6:50 pm for a soup and sustenance for your soul. We will have a soup & salad supper with scripture discussion led by Pastor Luis. Register weekly or for the entirety of Lent by texting SOUP to the church phone number.
- **PJ & Movie Sunday is March 9th!** We “spring ahead” that day, but you can gain time back by coming to church in PJs! All ages are welcome to join us after morning worship for the movie, “Horton Hears a Who”, starting around 10:45 am! Bring blankets, plushies, or pillows to snuggle in & watch a family film! There will be snacks, crafts & Christian conversation, plus nursery will be available for our littles!

CHILDREN

- **Children’s Ministry Programs** meet regularly. Magic Monday meets February 10th and 24th from 12-1:15pm for PK-1st children. Christian Kids(K-5th) practice loving God, self, and neighbor on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm with some school pick-up options. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information go to: <https://sycamoreumc.org/childrens-ministries/> Newcomers are always welcome!
- **Sunday School (PK-MS)** is weekly at 9:30am service.
- **SAVE THE DATE!! VBS** will take place July 7th-11th from 9-noon daily. This is an exciting opportunity for children ages 4 years old through 5th grade to learn about Jesus as our **TRUE NORTH**. Youth and Adult Volunteers are also needed. If you have any questions or would like to help, please see Becca.



YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

- **Youth Group** will continue to be every other Sunday. We extended the time now to 6-8p.m. Next meeting is scheduled 3/2/25. As always this is open to all middle schoolers and High Schoolers. We have food, games, and some devotional time. This follows Breakthrough Service which is from 4:30-6 please join us for both.
- Our **SUMC Life Missions trip** is scheduled for July 27th - August 1st . We are going to Benton Harbor MI through Youth Works. Our first deadline has passed but we will have the availability to add and drop participants one more time. We are looking for adult female leaders to chaperone. Please reach out if you are interested or if you want more details.
- **Young Adults Fellowship** meets every Thursday evening from 6-7:30. Anyone age 18-29 are invited for dinner and discussion about how God is showing up in our lives.

ADULTS

- The Prairie South District Leadership Conference is on March 22nd from 9 to noon at Oregon UMC. This event is an opportunity to worship, connect with other churches, and gather tools to help our congregation grow. All youth or adults are welcome to attend. Information about registration is coming soon
- Singles Fellowship meets February 25th at 6pm at Ski’s
- **Adult Studies:**
 - ◇ **Lenten Book Study** - Join Pastor Luis for this 6-week look at the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. The study will be on Wednesdays from 11-12pm and Thursdays from 7-8pm. Copies are available in the resource center or available on Amazon. To register text LENT 2025.
 - ◇ **Disciples** is a weekly study that helps participants deepen their understanding of Scripture and make connections between what they already know and what they are reading. Every Tuesday night at 5:30pm in the lounge you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. Register by texting: DISCIPLES to the church phone number or contact Peggy Carey
 - ◇ **Adult Bible Study: Jesus Teaches us How to Live - The Book of Matthew** Mondays at 6:00pm, thru April 14th in the Church Lounge. Bring your bible - a class study book and schedule will be provided. Newcomers are always welcome.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

P.R.I.D.E. COMMITTEE

The PRIDE Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Game Night on February 8th! With 40 congregants and community members in attendance, it was a fantastic evening of fun and connection. We're excited to host more Game Nights in the future—stay tuned for details!



PROMOTING
RECONCILIATION,
INCLUSION,
DIVERSITY, and
EQUALITY



We also invite you to our upcoming **Zine Craft Workshop on March 8th from 3–5 PM**. Come explore the history of zines (mini magazines) and get creative with us as we make our own! This event is open to all ages and artistic skill levels—everyone is welcome!

ABC PRESCHOOL

Spring is here!

Spring Sing will be on March 13 at 6:30 PM

Our annual Beach Party week begins the week March 17

Spring Pictures will be taken on March 20 & 21

Spring Break begins on Monday, March 24

The Mission Project this month is an annual Adopt-a-Pet in support of T.A.I.L.S.

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND ARTS

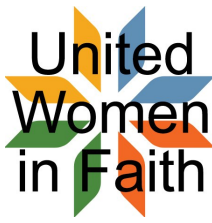
Save the date! Our Spring Sing and Choir Cantata will be on April 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM Choir will present their Lenten Cantata, "Upon This Rock"

Upon This Rock
The Passion, the Question, the Call
Pepper Choplin

Upon This Rock
SPRING CANTATA
Presented by the SUMC Chancel Choir
Sunday, April 13th
at 5:00 PM

SYCAMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
160 JOHNSON AVE., SYCAMORE, IL 60178
8154-895-9113 www.sycamoreumc.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UNIT MEETING IS MARCH 6TH AT 12 NOON

For our next unit meeting we will have a potato bar for the luncheon. Our speaker will be from Family Service Agency. Your circle leaders will tell you what to bring for the lunch. If you are not in a circle, please bring dinner rolls to share. Remember to bring your own table service. *All women are welcome.* Join us for this time of fellowship, food, and fun.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

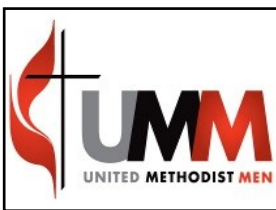
Join us for the **1st Annual SUMC Fundraiser, "Spring Around the World"** on **Saturday, March 15th.** The evening will begin with appetizers at 5:00pm, followed by a delicious Lasagna dinner at 6:00pm. Enjoy a fun-filled night with a silent and live auction.



Tickets are \$25/person; \$10 Children 5-12; Children under 5 free.

Come enjoy great food, exciting auctions, and support a great cause! We look forward to seeing you there!

Get your tickets at the church office, on Sundays in the Concourse, by texting WORLD to the church phone # or by scanning the QR Code above.



THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, March 22, from 8:30 to 11:00 A.M. at the United Methodist Church of New Lenox (339 W. Haven Ave). With the theme "EMPOWERED BY GRACE". This gathering is open to all men in the Northern Illinois Conference. District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Audrea Nanabray, will deliver the message and serve communion.

Please Note:
Our SUMC Men's Group is now meeting at 8:00am (instead of 7:30am) on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month for breakfast and conversation. All are welcome to attend!

Please RSVP by March 19 via email to office@sycamoreumc.org or call (815) 895-9113, so a count for breakfast can be submitted. Please specify this is for the United Methodist Men's event.

Questions? Contact Sycamore UMM President Jerry Armstrong at: redleg09bc@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH YOUNG WOMEN'S CIRCLE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE - IN THE SUMC LOUNGE

Join us at this gathering to begin talking about forming an additional women's circle that would be geared toward younger women. The group would set their own meeting schedule, format, and goals. Please join us for this conversation to explore more ways to gather, grow, and serve. Contact Cheryl Callighan or Becca Rome for more information.



BLOOD DRIVE AT SUMC
Saturday, April 5th
from 8:00-1:00 in the gym

For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER, GROW, AND SERVE

HYGIENE ITEM DRIVE: The Rotaract Club of Sycamore is hosting a Hygiene Item Drive to support students in the Sycamore and DeKalb school districts, and SUMC is serving as a donation drop-off location. From March 1st through April 1st, 2025, we will be collecting hygiene products, including soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, feminine hygiene products, and combs. All donations will be distributed through the Regional Office of Education and local food pantries to ensure they reach students in need. A donation box will be available at the church located in the Concourse], and a member of Rotaract will collect the items. Please consider contributing to this important effort and helping local students access basic hygiene essentials.



CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Memorial Committee will be awarding scholarships to deserving and qualified students planning to attend a 2 or 4-year-college or university next year or a trade school program. Applicants for the church scholarships must be an active member of Sycamore United Methodist Church. Church membership is not required for the Karen S. Palm-Hale-Hagen Nursing Memorial United Methodist Endowed Scholarship.

Applications and specific criteria for the scholarships are available in the church office and online at www.sycamoreumc.org. The application needs to be completed and returned to the church office by March 31, 2025. Be sure to use the 2025 scholarship applications to be considered for a scholarship. The scholarships will be awarded in June.

Scholarship Options:

- A limited number of scholarships of at least \$500 will be awarded from the **Church Scholarship Funds**. The number of scholarships vary each year and will be determined by the amount of money in the scholarship fund at the time the applications are reviewed in April as well as the applicant's involvement in church activities. Contributions to this fund can be made at any time during the year.
- The \$1,000 **Marion B. Marsh Memorial Scholarship** will be given to a person entering the freshman year.
- The **Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship** of with a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000 will be given to a full-time student who has completed the freshman year and is planning to continue his/her undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate studies at an accredited college or university, majoring in a religious or education vocation. Priority will be given to a prior recipient of the Barbara J. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- The **Midge Hartsuch Memorial Scholarship** of \$500 will be given to a student who will be attending Kishwaukee Community College in Malta. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded.
- **Sycamore United Methodist Men's Scholarships** -Two \$500 scholarships will be available:
 - 1 scholarship to honor and provide financial assistance to one student who will be attending a 2 or 4-year college or university in the following school year.
 - 1 scholarship to honor and provide financial assistance to one student who will be pursuing further education in a "hands on" trade school program.
- The **Karen S. Palm-Hale-Hagen Nursing Memorial United Methodist Endowed Scholarship**, based on funds in the account, with the minimum of \$500 will be awarded to one high school senior declaring "Nursing" as their college major or an active college student pursuing a nursing degree each year for their dedication to serving others in the surrounding Sycamore/DeKalb communities. If no applicant meets the criteria, the scholarship will not be awarded. **(NOTE: The criteria and application for this scholarship are different from the Sycamore United Methodist Church Scholarship criteria and application.)**

MARCH 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

The deadline for the April issue of The Messenger is March 20th

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast
2 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	3 12:00 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Trustees	4 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 7:00 PM Congregational Care and Outreach	5 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Lenten Book Study 12:15 PM Ash Wednesday Contemplative Service 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 12:00 PM UWF Unit Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study	7 7:00 PM Pack 141 Pack Mtg.	8 3-5:00 PM ZINE Craft Workshop
9 PJ Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM PJ Sunday Movie 4:00 PM GS Troop 998 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	10 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Magic Mondays 12:00 PM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Coat Ministry 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 5:00 PM Finance/Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Matthew" 7:00 PM Church Council	11 9:30 PM Mary Circle 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4	12 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Lenten Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 4:00 pm TOPS 4:30 PM GS Troop 1717 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:30 PM ABC Preschool 4's Spring Sing 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study	14 12:30 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 6:00 PM GS Troop 912	15 8:30 AM UMM Breakfast 10:00 AM NIC Board of Pension 1:00 PM Troop 18 5:00 PM "Spring Around the World" Fundraiser
16 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	17 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 9:00 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Matthew"	18 1:00 PM Grace Circle 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1	19 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Network 11:00 AM Lenten Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM GS Leader Mtg. 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Youth Ministries Team 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study	21	22
23 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM PRIDE Comm. 11:00 AM UWF Young Women's Circle Informational Meeting 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship	24 ABC Preschool No school 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 5:15 PM GS Troop 5070 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Matthew"	25 ABC Preschool No school 1:00 PM UWF Missions Team 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Singles Fellowship at Ski's	26 ABC Preschool No school 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Lenten Book Study 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27 ABC Preschool No school 4:00 PM TOPS 4:30 PM GS Troop 1717 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study	28 ABC Preschool No school	29
30 9:30 AM Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM VBS Decorating Committee 4:30 PM BREAKTHROUGH Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Group	31 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 12:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study "The Book of Matthew"	April 1 3:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM "Disciples" Bible Study 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 1 6:30 PM Food Pantry Board	2 9:00 AM Faithful Fitness 11:00 AM Lenten Book Study 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:30 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	3 12:00 PM UWF Unit Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Young Adult Fellowship Group 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study	4	5 8:00 AM UMM Breakfast 8:00 AM-1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive